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23 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS ALLEGEDLY ABUSED IN L.A. {pages 12-13}

OAXACA, MEXICO
ADVENTURE, TRADITION MEET HERE
{page 30}

TORONTO
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Wednesday, February 8, 2012
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News worth sharing.

▶ Juno Award nominees, clockwise from top left, Justin Bieber, Avril Lavigne, Dallas Green and Drake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Who will rise above the pack?

Juno Award nominees were announced Tuesday along with news that Canadian acting icon William Shatner will host the 2012 show in Ottawa on April 1. Predicting this year's big winner is tough — Drake and City and Colour (recording alias for Dallas Green) each received four nods, Avril Lavigne earned three and Justin Bieber will compete in two categories. Story, page 25.

Mystery shrouds model's road death

▶ Woman driving car that Traverso was in has spoken to police ▶ No charges have been laid

Mystery surrounds the death of a 19-year-old aspiring model and actress as investigators continue to piece together why she left a car on the Gardiner Expressway.

Former Sunshine girl Katie Traverso was fatally hit by a truck near Dufferin Street after somehow exiting the eastbound Toyota Corolla in which she was a passenger at 2:30 a.m. Monday.

While investigators continue to study evidence and eyewitness reports, Traverso's family and friends expressed their shock and grief on Facebook. The messages paint a picture of a much-loved, vivacious girl whose career was starting to take off.

"She had that star factor, that 'it' factor," said her manager, Derrick "D-Teflon" Ling, CEO of Alliance Entertainment Group. "She was one of those people that was destined to go extremely far."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"She was like an eclipse — only every 100 years do you ever get to see something so rare, pure and beautiful."

DERRICK "D-TEFLON" LING, TRAVERSO'S MANAGER

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No room for research at new campuses?

To Ivory Tower guru Ian Clark, the McGuinty government is right to have promised three new undergraduate campuses that focus on teaching only — hold the research.

Moreover, professors at these new campuses should be required to teach twice as many courses as usual — a full 80 per cent of their time with only 10 per cent left for research, which would create cosier classes, cut salary costs and boost student satisfaction, argued the former head of the Council of Ontario Universities on Tuesday as part of a free-wheeling conference on what these campuses should be like.

Clark and professor David Trick are co-authors of a controversial new book that calls for new teaching-oriented universities where profs would have much higher course loads.

Simply by doubling the number of courses a professor teaches each semester to four from two could cut the operating cost of educating a student to $9,800 from $14,300 at a campus of 10,000, noted Clark at the conference sponsored by the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Major mistake'

Not everyone agrees Ontario needs any new campus at all.

- Economics Prof. George Fallis called it a "major mistake to expand Ontario's university system now — we already have the system we need in place."
- Fallis concludes Ontario already pays for higher education for more than 75% of the population — beyond even the government's own target of 70%.

A tale of two transit plans

An overview of competing plans for Toronto transit from Mayor Rob Ford and TTC chair Karen Stintz

Rob Ford's plan

Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown LRT running 25.2 kilometres along Eglinton from about Jane Street to Kennedy Station in a tunnel, continuing on the separated guideway for the Scarborough RT between Kennedy Station and Scarborough Centre.

Sheppard East extension from the current terminus at Don Mills to the Scarborough Centre. Sheppard West extends from Yonge Street to Downsview Station.

It would cost $8.4 billion for the Eglinton line — paid for by the province. Sheppard subway estimated cost is $2.75 billion on the east and $1.48 billion on the west end.

Karen Stintz's plan

Eglinton Crosstown LRT to run 20 kilometres between Jane and Kennedy Station with 28 stops and an underground portion between Black Creek and Laird Drive, where it resurface on a separate right-of-way.

Sheppard East LRT would run 13 kilometres on a separate right-of-way on the road between Don Mills and Conlins Road. Finch West LRT on a separate right-of-way 11 km between Keele Street and Humber College with 20 stops.

It would cost about $8.4 billion in provincial funds, with about $6 billion spent on the Eglinton line. Estimates for street-level LRTs on Sheppard and Finch were about $1 billion each in 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Environment. Team

▶ Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., son of Bobby Kennedy, accepts a Toronto FC Jersey from The Hollywood Minute while in town to celebrate the Lake Ontario Waterkeeper 10th anniversary sold-out gala and art auction at Corus Quay.

COURTESY OF CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

Kennedy plays defence for Lake Ontario

Kennedy, a well-known environmental crusader, is president of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an umbrella organization for 124 keeper programs that protect bays, lakes and streams around the world, including nine Canadian chapters.

1 news

As the prime minister arrives in China, reports tell a tale of skyrocketing environmental accidents in the country. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

A cat invades the field during a Premier League match on Monday and has 30,000 Twitter followers by Tuesday. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Hydro transformer so old, it's called T-Rex

Aged transformers still performing but now more than 70 years old
They were designed to last 40 Toronto Hydro asking for rate hike

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Toronto Hydro Substation supervisor Tom Cook on Monday in front of an old oil-filled transformer on the left and a newer transformer on the right.

"This is probably the oldest thing we've got in service," says Toronto Hydro's Tom Cook, stopping beside an outdoor transformer at the utility's station on Wiltshire Avenue.

How old? Well, let's just say that a contemporary transformer, recently taken out of service, was fondly known as T-Rex. As in dinosaur.

No one's quite sure when T-Rex's Wiltshire Avenue cousin was installed.

But it was the era when the Toronto Maple Leafs had just been born. Blurry television images were being transmitted for the first time in cutting-edge laboratories. And King George V reigned over the British Empire.

The Wiltshire transformer could be the poster child for Toronto Hydro's case that it needs to spend heavily — about $580 million a year for each of the next three years — to renew its aging system.

"When they fail, there's shrapnel flying all over the place." TOM COOK

The program has run into a roadblock at the Ontario Energy Board, which questioned Toronto Hydro's credibility in a preliminary decision in January.

Toronto Hydro says the energy-board decision will force it to slash renewal spending by two-thirds. The result, it says: More blackouts and a less reliable system.

The energy board says the spending reduction needn't be nearly so drastic. Toronto Hydro has asked the board to review its decision.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto wants out of Ontario Municipal Board

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Coun. Josh Matlow

Seeking to give residents more say about what gets built in their neighbourhoods, Toronto city council has asked the province to free the city from the Ontario Municipal Board's jurisdiction.

Council endorsed the proposal in a 34-5 vote on Monday. The vote is expected to prompt talks with the province over how to revamp the quasi-judicial board, which hears appeals of zoning decisions and frequently overturns council.

"We've heard time and time again from our residents that there's an inequitable playing field," said Coun. Josh Matlow, who has been urging changes along with Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam.

Council was told that the city had 121 cases at the board in 2011 involving about 240 days of hearings. The city wins some and loses some, said chief planner Gary Wright.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SPACE VOYAGE

'Lego man' teens visit Grade 1 class

When Mathew Ho and Asad Muhammad unveiled the pint-sized toy that has become the figurehead of their awe-inspiring exploits to a Grade 1 class on Tuesday, the kids screamed.

"LEGO MAN!"

Ho and Muhammad, the 17-year-old whiz kids who launched a helium-filled, picture-taking, weather balloon into near space last month, visited East York's Diefenbaker Elementary School Tuesday.

"They're like rock stars to these kids," the class' teacher, Carolyn Meehan said.

The Toronto teens — who are still students at Agincourt Collegiate — have been in high demand ever since their story and breathtaking photos went viral.

There have been inquiries from Jay Leno and the Discovery Channel; the pair have fielded dozens of interview requests from newspapers from as far away as Australia, Japan and the Netherlands; and there are already discussions with a U.S. publisher about writing a children's book about their experiment.

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Mom jailed for leaving girl with pedophiles

A judge has jailed a Toronto mother for six and a half years for repeatedly exposing her adopted daughter to molestation by two pedophiles.

"This is a case like no other," Ontario Superior Court Justice Gary Trotter said Tuesday.

The single woman adopted the girl at age 18 months from an eastern European orphanage, "then quickly delivered her to a life of chaos, dysfunction, filth and squalor," the judge said.

It was "a shocking breach of parent-child trust."

The 61-year-old woman seemed calm as court officers handcuffed her.

The judge noted she appears to have "no insight whatsoever into her behaviour," or to appreciate the gravity of the offences committed against her daughter when she was 8 and 9.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Supervisor charged in deadly gas explosion

Police say a construction supervisor has been charged in the death of a man after a natural-gas explosion in Windsor nearly a year ago.

Alipio Gaspar, 44, of Windsor, is charged with criminal negligence causing death, police say.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more news, visit metronews.ca/toronto

Young book lovers unite

Competition quizzes kids on their knowledge of children's literature

They had all the answers — from knowing the character who had a pet named Norbert in the Harry Potter series to who wrote about a food called "snozzcumbers."

After weeks of reading classics, mythology, Canadian literature and contemporary works, book lovers ages 10 to 13 took over a Toronto school gymnasium on Tuesday to take part in the "sport of reading," answering 100 book-based questions.

The 43, four-student teams in the Kids' Lit Quiz — some dressed in uniform, others as literary characters, including a team of blue-faced Smurfs — celebrated their correct answers with high-fives and hugs to loud cheering and clapping, all to the finale that saw a team from University of Toronto Schools take first place and one from Summit Heights Public School earn second.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Nikki Cheung, 11, takes part Tuesday in the Kid Lit Quiz at John Ross Robertson Public School.

Last year's winner

▶ A Summit Heights Public School team won last year, and then travelled to New Zealand to compete against teams from around the world.

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FIRST WORLD WAR SURVIVOR

Last war vet dies at 110

Florence Green never saw the front line. Her war was spent serving food, not dodging bullets.

But Green, who has died at age 110, was the last known surviving veteran of the First World War.

She was serving with the Women's Royal Air Force as a waitress at an air base in eastern England when the guns fell silent in 1918.

Green died at a care home in eastern England, two weeks before her 111th birthday.

In 2008, Green remembered her wartime service with affection.

"I met dozens of pilots and would go on dates," she said.

She added: "I would work every hour God sent. But I had dozens of friends on the base and we had a great deal of fun in our spare time."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Florence Green

11-death horror sparks pleas to 'ban the vans'

▶ 15-seat vehicles 'death traps,' say two mourning moms ▶ Minister says special driver training mandatory ▶ Few safeguards for migrant workers

A horrendous crash that killed 10 migrant farm workers and a truck driver in rural Ontario has rekindled calls for a ban on 15-passenger vans, the kind that ferried Monday's tragic crew.

There were also calls to bulk up safeguards for agriculture labourers.

Workers'-rights advocates said the crash in Hampstead, northeast of Stratford, has brought to light the hazards faced by tens of thousands of migrant workers toiling on Ontario's farms.

Long shifts under gruelling conditions leave workers exhausted and vulnerable to accidents, said Stan Raper of the Agriculture Workers Alliance.

"There has to be a more humane way to provide work to people," Raper said.

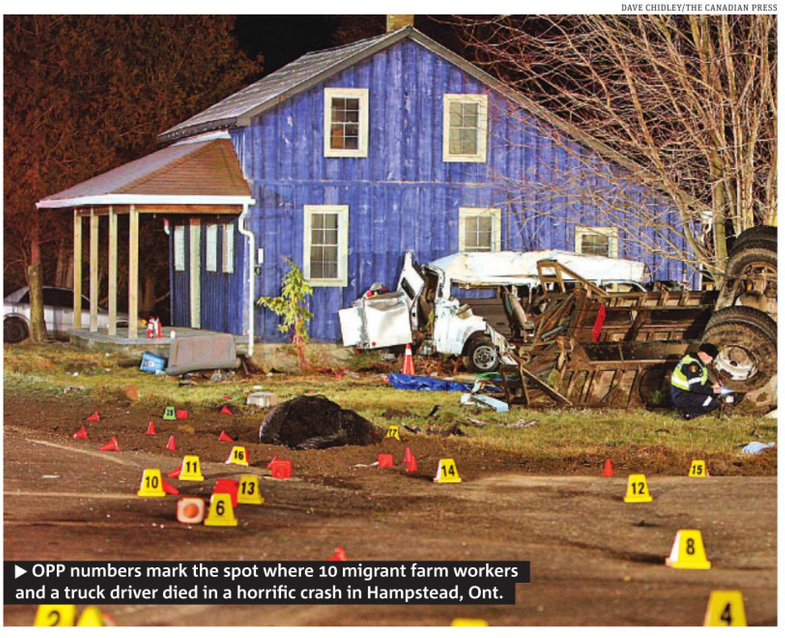
Bob Chiarelli, Ontario's Minister of Transportation, said driving a 15-passenger van requires special training and would not be permitted using a standard international licence.

The van carrying workers from Peru collided with a flatbed truck.

The impact sent the van hurtling across a lawn before smashing into the side of a house with the passenger side ripped nearly clean off.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ OPP numbers mark the spot where 10 migrant farm workers and a truck driver died in a horrific crash in Hampstead, Ont.

Deadly toll

- The 11-death crash was the deadliest multi-vehicle crash in Ontario since 1999, when fog near Windsor caused an 87-car pileup that killed eight.
- Canada's worst road accident was in Quebec in 1997. A chartered bus taking a group of seniors on a tour plunged over an embankment near St-Joseph-de-la-Rive, killing 43 of the 48 people on board.

Vans meant for cargo, say moms

Two women whose sons were killed in a 15-passenger van crash four years ago in New Brunswick say the horrific collision in Ontario reinforces their belief that the large vehicles are "death traps."

Isabelle Hains and Ana Acevedo said the vans offer no protection to passengers because they're designed to carry cargo, not people.

"How many more terrible 15-passenger-van collisions and deaths do we have to witness before our governments ... wake up," their statement says.

Hains's 17-year-old son Daniel was among seven high school basketball players killed in 2008. Acevedo's 17-year-old son Javier also died.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories do U-turn: Torture info now OK

The federal government has carried out a dramatic U-turn on torture.

It has directed Canada's spy agency to use information that may have been extracted through torture in cases where public safety is at stake.

The order represents a reversal of policy for the Tories, who once insisted the Canadian Security Intelligence Service would discard information if there was any inkling it might be tainted.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews has quietly told CSIS the government now expects the spy service to "make the protection of life and property its overriding priority."

A copy of the two-page December 2010 directive was obtained under the Access to Information Act.

"Our government will always take action that protects the lives of Canadians."
MIKE PATTON,
A TOEWS SPOKESPERSON

It drew swift condemnation from Amnesty International Canada, which said information obtained under torture "has no place in the justice system, full stop."

The NDP and Liberals also pounced on the revelations Tuesday in the House of Commons, pressing the government to account for its new stance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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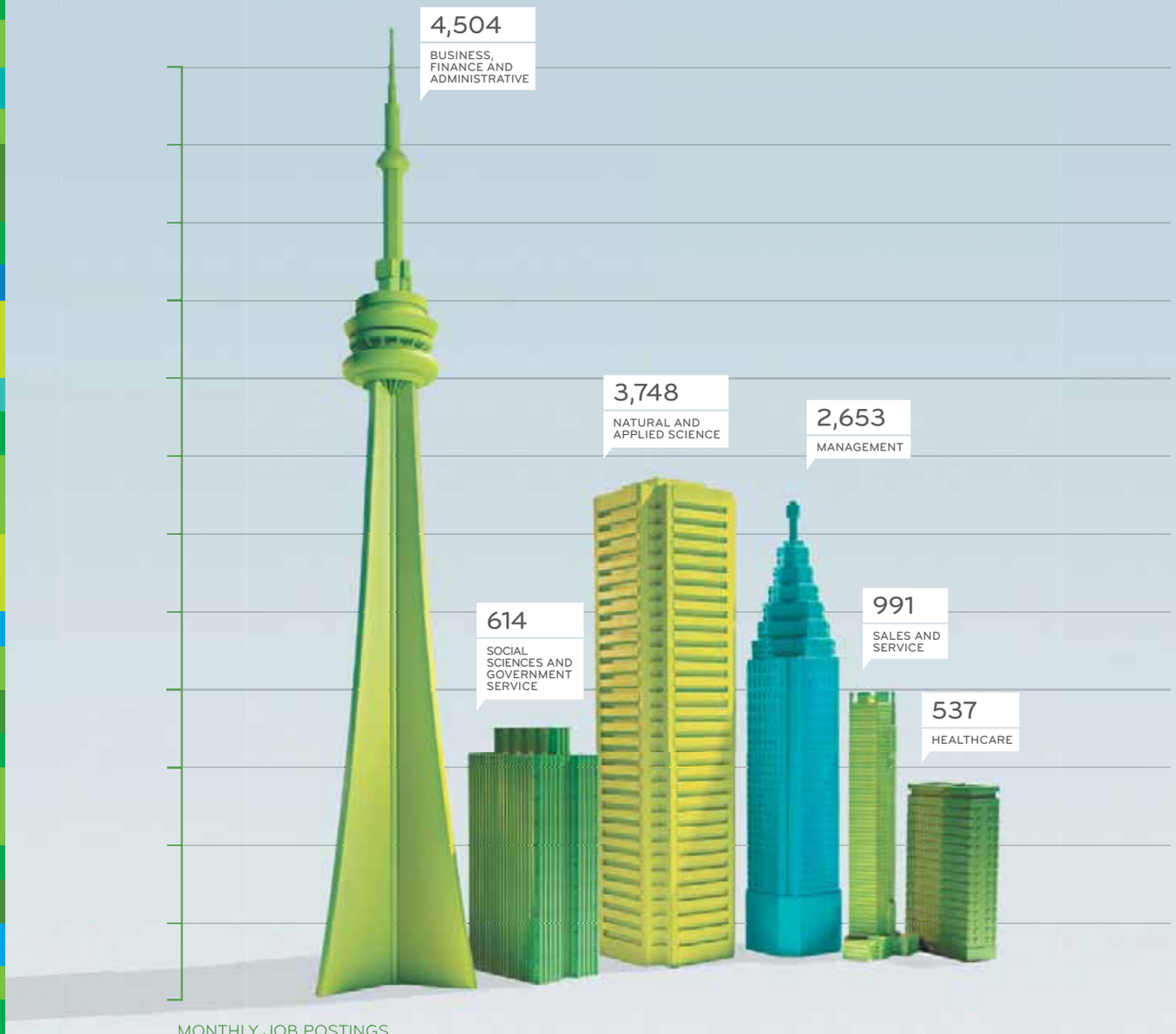

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WORKOPOLIS

Canadians support death penalty: Poll

Majority would welcome the return of capital punishment for murderers, a recent survey finds

A half-century has passed since the last person in Canada was executed but a recent public-opinion poll suggests that Canadians are warming to the idea of a return to capital punishment.

The survey conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion poll in partnership with the Toronto Star found that 63 per cent of the 1,002 Canadian surveyed across the country believe the death penalty is sometimes appropriate. Sixty-one per cent said capital punishment is warranted for murder, which was abolished in Canada in 1976.

However, when respondents were given the choice of whether they supported the death penalty or life imprisonment, 50 per cent chose the latter.

The debate over restoring the death penalty took on new life recently when Conservative Senator Pierre Hugues-Boisvenu suggested that serial murderers should be given a rope to hang themselves in prison. The pro-justice senator's daughter, Julie, was kidnapped, raped and murdered in June 2002. Boisvenu later withdraw the remark.

The Angus Reid online survey found that the views of Canadians' view on the death penalty differ greatly according to political allegiance and region.

In British Columbia and Alberta about seven in 10 support the return of the death penalty; three-in-five Ontarians or 62 per cent agree. About 58 per cent of these respondents believe capital punishment would serve as a deterrent for potential murderers, save taxpayers money and the cost associated with imprisoning murderers (56 per cent) while 55 per cent favoured an eye for an eye.

Those most opposed to the death penalty, about 45 per cent, live in Quebec, compared to 32 per cent in Ontario and 24 per cent in British Columbia.

The survey found that respondents who voted for the Conservative Party in 2011 federal election were more likely to regard the death penalty as "always" or "sometimes" appropriate while the majority of who vote Liberal, Bloc Québécois or the Green Party were opposed to the return of the death penalty. NDP supporters were divided on the question.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Poll basics

- The poll was conducted conducted Feb. 2 and 3 with a margin of error plus or minus 3.1 per cent 19 times out of 20.
- Last year, Angus Reid Public Opinion asked similar questions in the United States and Britain and found that the majority of respondents in both countries supported the continuation or the return of the death penalty.

Jobs. Lost

▶ An upset woman hugs a co-worker on Tuesday after exiting a meeting where employees were informed of Maple Leaf Foods' plans to close their facility in Ayr.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chicken plant to be shuttered

Maple Leaf is closing the chicken-processing plant in Ayr, south of Kitchener, this May, resulting in the loss of about 100 jobs. The company said Tuesday the streamlining is part of a plan to consolidate the company's poultry operations at its Brantford and Mississauga plants.

Woman wins cash for firing

A human-rights panel in Prince Edward Island has ordered a hotel to pay a former employee about $15,000 in compensation for firing her after she told her boss she was pregnant.

The panel convened by the province's Human Rights Commission says the Inn on the Hill in Charlottetown discriminated against Alison MacKinnon when they let her go in October 2010.

MacKinnon had worked as the administrative assistant to Tanya Bevan, the hotel's co-owner, and at the front desk less than a month when she told her boss she was pregnant.

Bevan testified her and the manager discussed firing MacKinnon the week before she told them she was pregnant and her dismissal was within her probationary period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Baird

Nazi talk not helpful: Adviser

Making comparisons between modern day Iran and Nazi Germany is excessive and unhelpful, says a point man for Bill Clinton's Middle East peace initiatives.

"I think there's been a breathless quality to what people have said about Iran, sometimes comparing them to Hitler and the 1930s," Robert Malley, head of the International Crisis Group's Middle East program told The Canadian Press.

He was speaking two days after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird invoked images of the Holocaust in defending possible Israeli military action against Iran.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP officers shot

Two RCMP officers were shot and wounded at a rural residence in Alberta on Tuesday. They were airlifted to a hospital in Edmonton for treatment. At press time, their conditions had not been released.

As of Tuesday night, the RCMP said they were looking for an armed suspect. Alberta Premier Alison Redford, who was briefed by the solicitor general, said one person was in custody.

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Dozens missing after deadly quake

Death toll in central Philippines continues to rise after Monday's magnitude-6.9 earthquake Struck at a depth of 46 kilometres

Dozens of people were still missing Tuesday following a strong earthquake that triggered landslides and damaged buildings and roads on a central Philippine island. The death toll reached 22, but officials said it was likely to rise further as rescuers struggle to reach remote areas.

Monday's magnitude-6.9 quake also collapsed bridges on Negros Island, forcing soldiers and firefighters to hike mountains to reach remote villages. Most of the confirmed deaths were in Planas village, a part of Guihulngan town where some 30 houses were buried under concrete debris.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TED ALJIBE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A woman stands next to a destroyed house in La Libertad town central Philippines on Tuesday.

U.S. court strikes down gay-marriage ban

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A same-sex couple, Monica Chacon, left, and Breana Hansen, demonstrate against Proposition 8 on Tuesday in San Francisco.

A U.S. federal appeals court in San Francisco declared California's same-sex marriage ban to be unconstitutional on Tuesday, putting the bitterly contested, voter-approved law on track to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that a lower-court judge correctly interpreted the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedents when he declared in 2010 that Proposition 8 — a response to an earlier state court decision that legalized gay marriage — was a violation of the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Russia pushes for reforms in Syria

Days after blocking a U.S.-backed peace plan at the UN, senior Russian officials pushed for reforms Tuesday during an emergency meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad, promoting a settlement to end the uprising without removing him from power.

Thousands of flag-waving government supporters cheered the Russians in the Syrian capital of Damascus while, to the north, Assad's forces pounded the opposition city of Homs — underscoring the sharp divisions propelling the country toward civil war.

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School staff removed in L.A. sex-abuse scandal

- Two teachers accused of abusing young students
- Miramonte Elementary one of largest schools in L.A.

The entire staff of a downtown Los Angeles elementary school are being replaced after allegations of sexual abuse by two of its teachers, the city's school superintendent said late Monday.

More than 120 staff members, including the principal and nearly 90 teachers at Miramonte Elementary School, will be replaced while investigators look into allegations of abuse after the arrest of veteran teachers Mark Berndt and Martin Bernard Springer.

The investigation began last year when a drugstore clerk found disturbing images of children on a film being developed at his store.

Berndt, 61, was charged last week with committing lewd acts on 23 children, ranging in age from six to 10, between 2005 and 2010.

The acts allegedly include blindfolding, gagging and feeding children semen in his classroom, in what children were allegedly told was a tasting game. The evidence includes hundreds of photographs Berndt took of the students.

Berndt, who has worked at the school since 1979, remains in jail on $23 million bail. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Springer, 49, who taught Grade 2 and had worked at the school since 1986, was arrested Friday on suspicion of fondling two girls in his classroom. He is being held on $2 million bail.

Parents were furious that the board didn't take action sooner.

"Instead of asking, 'Did you learn something today?' I asked, 'Did someone touch you?'" said Nancy Linares, whose granddaughter attends the school. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I cannot have another student tell me he is afraid. The primary responsibility, bar none, is safety and support. Clearly, several individuals have violated the most sacred trust we have."
JOHN DEASY, L.A. SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

▶ Protesters march near Miramonte Elementary School in Los Angeles on Monday. Parents were informed at a community meeting that the district is replacing the entire staff of the school after two teachers were arrested for lewd conduct last week.

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KRISTA KENNELL/GETTY IMAGES

Abuse probe begins

Investigators will interview Miramonte staff as well as current and former students, said John Deasy, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The investigation will be overseen by an independent commission led by Carlos Moreno, former chief justice of the California Supreme Court.

Miramonte staff will be reassigned to a nearby school that is under construction. Miramonte will be closed until Thursday, when new teachers will be in place.

A psychiatric social worker will be in every classroom to help students cope, Deasy said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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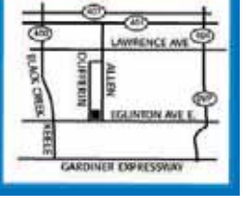

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Drilling at ancient lake catches a chill

Probe may have reached sub-glacial lake sealed off from atmosphere for millions of years ◗ Scientists speculate Lake Vostok holds secrets about prehistoric micro-organisms ◗ Frigid Antarctic location restricts access

The coldest place on earth may have stopped scientists tantalizingly short of tapping into a 15-million-year-old mystery of a buried Antarctic lake.

Racing against time and plunging temperatures, Russian scientists have been drilling nearly four kilometres beneath the bleak Central Antarctic surface to reach Lake Vostok, about the size as Lake Ontario.

The Russian news agency RIA Novosti quoted sources on Monday as saying they have finally touched the liquid lake surface, 20 years after the controversial project started in earnest.

"If they were successful, their efforts will transform the way we do science in Antarctica and provide us with an entirely new view of what exists under the vast Antarctic ice sheet."
ANTARCTIC SPECIALIST JOHN PRISCU OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The head of the Russian mission pulled back on Tuesday, however, telling Nature magazine the data are still being analyzed to confirm the hit.

Timing is vital: The last flight out of the area left Monday as Antarctica's short summer vanished and temperatures started falling. By February, the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute reported, temperatures on the ice above Lake Vostok hover around -42 C. In March, they fall to -61 C.

The coldest temperature on Earth, -89 C, was recorded there in 1983.

"Only when I have this (data) can I say we penetrated (the lake)," Valery Lukin, director of the Russian Antarctic program, told Nature. "We want to be sure we have really reached the surface of Lake Vostok."

Sensors probing nearly 3,700 metres below the surface report back information on the exact depth of ice drilled and the level of fluids in the borehole. Water extracted from the lake would be taken for analysis.

"As soon as we get it officially confirmed, this information will be disseminated among the international community," said Lukin. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Prince Albert II of Monaco, third from left, poses with scientists at the Vostok research station near the South Pole in this file photo from 2009.

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Russians strike while it's hot — for Antarctica

This year's drilling began Jan. 2 (when temperatures are at their warmest, about -36 C during the day) and progressed by about 1.75 metres a day, the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute has said.

When the team resumed drilling last year on Jan. 2, 2011, they had already reached 3,650 metres, Nature reported. At that time Lukin said: "We can make it."

Russian scientists and engineers plan to send a swimming robot into the lake in the Antarctic summer of 2012-13 to collect water samples and sediment from the bottom.

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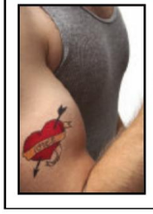

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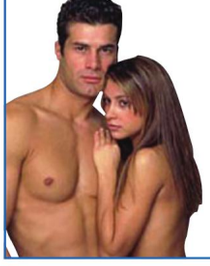

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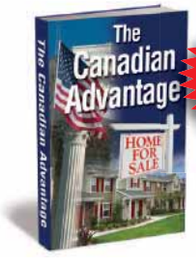

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Iranian leader under fire

Politicians to question Ahmadinejad over mismanagement of economy

Iran's parliament on Tuesday decided to summon President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for questioning over a long list of accusations, including that he mismanaged the nation's economy.

The summons was the first of its kind for an Iranian president since 1979. It follows a petition by a group of lawmakers for a review of policy decisions by Ahmadinejad, who has come under increasing attacks from the same hard-liners who brought him to power.

It is also part of a power struggle on the Iranian political scene ahead of March 2 parliamentary elections and the 2013 presidential vote.

Besides the economy, Ahmadinejad will also be asked about foreign and domestic policy decisions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VAHID SALEMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will be questioned by lawmakers over a long list of accusations.

Farsi station spreads peaceful message

While Israeli leaders are increasingly sounding belligerent warnings of a potential military strike against Iran's nuclear installations, a group of Iranian-Israelis are transmitting a different message.

Radio RADISIN, a private Farsi-language radio station based in Tel Aviv, airs Iranian music, poetry and current affairs shows aiming to spread peace between the Israeli and Iranian people — regardless of who is in power in Tehran.

"We, the people in Israel, are a peaceful nation and not an enemy, or the 'little Satan' as we are described by the Iranian regime," said Shay Amir, the station's 42-year-old CEO, who left Iran for Israel after the 1979 Islamic revolution. "For 32 years, the regime has poisoned its people against Israel. We are here to tell the truth."

100,000

Some 100,000 Jews of Iranian descent live in Israel today, many with fond memories and still strong ties to friends and relatives in their homeland. An estimated 25,000 Jews still live in Iran.

Before the revolution, Israel and Iran were close allies. But now Israel considers Iran its most dangerous foe because of the Islamic Republic's support of Palestinian militant groups, its repeated threats to destroy the Jewish state and its nuclear program.

Israel, like the West, believes Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons. Tehran says its nuclear-research program is for peaceful purposes only.

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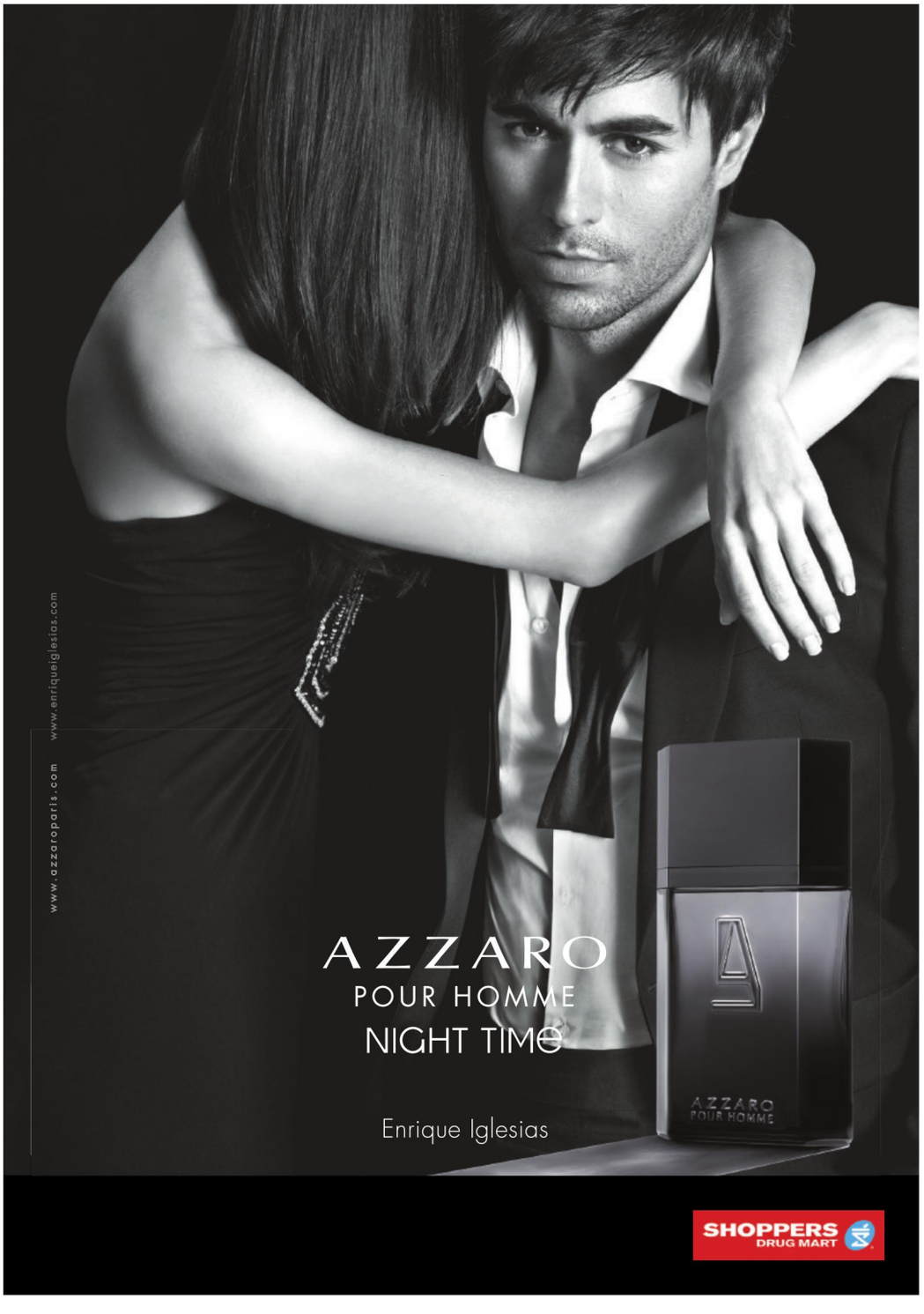

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Dickens' birthday celebrated in U.K.

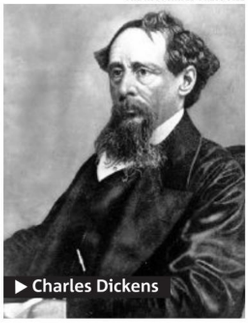
Writer's novels, characters still popular 200 years after his birth Royalty take part in honouring author

He wrote about life in the modern city, with its lawyers and criminals, bankers and urchins, dreamers and clerks. He created characters still known to millions — Ebeneezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, Pip and Miss Havisham, Fagin and Oliver Twist. And it made him a star, mobbed by fans on both sides of the Atlantic.

Britain on Tuesday marked the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, the first global celebrity author and chronicler of a world of urban inequality that looks a lot like the one we live in today.

"You only have to look around our society and everything he wrote about in the 1840s is still relevant," said Dickens' biographer, Claire Tomalin. "The great gulf between the rich and poor, corrupt financiers, corrupt members of Parliament.... You name it, he said it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



▶ Charles Dickens

Dickens' mistrust of the wealthy and compassion for the poor haven't stopped him from being embraced by Britain's high and mighty.

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, joined Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, actor Ralph Fiennes, a host of dignitaries and scores of Dickens' descendants at a memorial service Tuesday in London's Westminster Abbey.

A simultaneous event was held in Portsmouth, southern England, where Dickens was born, the son of a navy pay clerk, on Feb. 7, 1812.

In a message read out loud, Charles called Dickens "one of the greatest writers of the English language, who used his creative genius to campaign passionately for social justice."

In London, the heir to the throne laid a wreath of white roses and snowdrops on the writer's grave in Poet's Corner — resting place of national literary icons.

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JIM COOPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Adele

Name-calling draws ire

Fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld calls Adele 'a little too fat' Also says Russian men 'are very ugly'

Karl Lagerfeld's comments during his guest editorship of Metro newspapers around the world generated headlines from Paris to the White House, offending songstress Adele, Michelle Obama and Russian men.

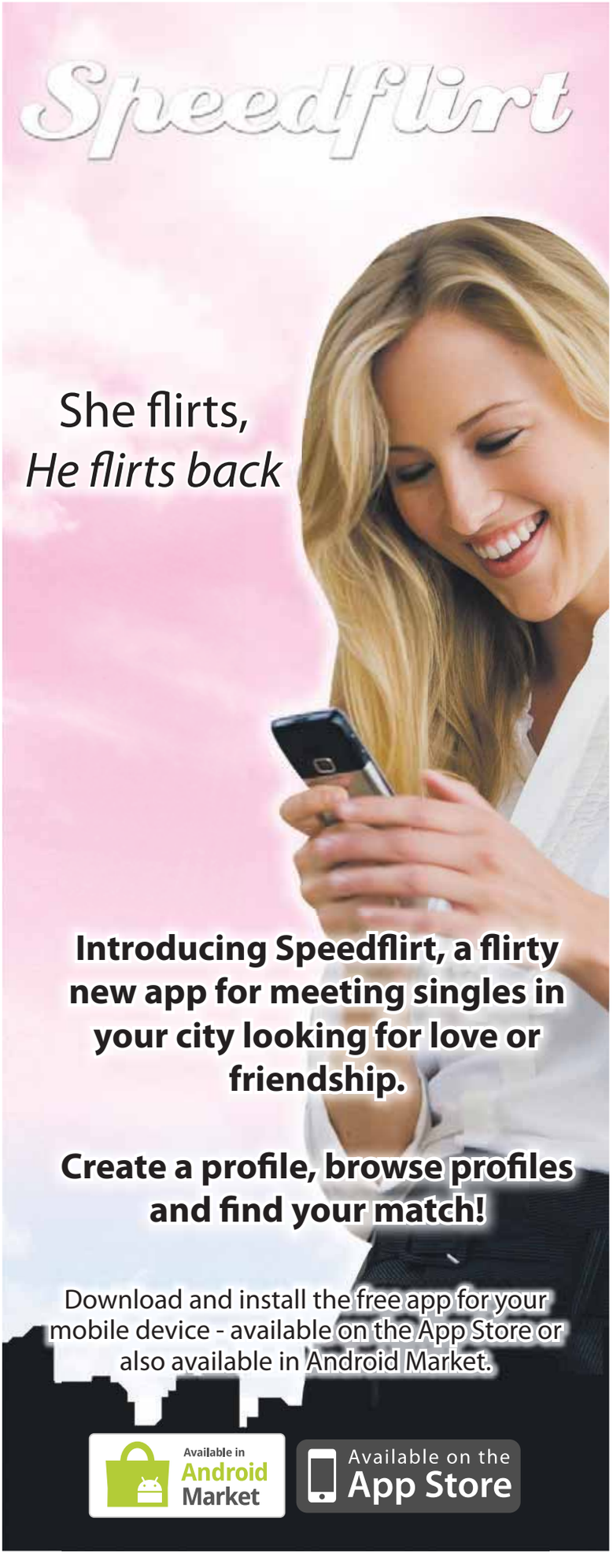
In the issue, distributed in 22 Metro countries, Lagerfeld discussed everything from Syria to Miss Piggy, but his comment about Adele generated the most heat.

She "is a little too fat, but she has a beautiful face and a divine voice," he said.

Critics slammed Lagerfeld's remarks and news outlets around the world, from the U.K.'s Daily Mail to the Los Angeles Times, picked up the story, generating hundreds of comments from their readers.

Of U.S. first lady Michelle Obama he said: "My favourite thing about Mrs. Obama was when she was asked if her skirt was not too tight and she answered, 'Why, you don't like my big black ass?'"

"Mrs. Obama never made that statement," Kristina Schake, Obama's director of communications, told the Huffington Post. METRO WORLD NEWS



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Research.

▶ Pictured on Tuesday, from left, are Dr. Richard Reznick, dean of Queen's University's faculty of health sciences; Dr. Daniel Woolf, Queen's principal and vice-chancellor; Mary Deacon, chair of the Bell Let's Talk mental-health initiative; Dr. Heather Stuart, inaugural holder of the Bell Mental Health and Anti-Stigma Research Chair; and Thomas O'Neill, BCE chair of the board.

CONTRIBUTED

Queen's takes aim at mental health

On the eve of a day dedicated to airing mental-health issues, Bell Canada and Queen's University announced that Heather Stuart, the school's professor of community health and epidemiology, has been named the first Bell Mental Health and Anti-Stigma Research Chair. The chair, billed as a world first, will be funded by a $1-million investment from Bell Canada.

Nortel accountant had doubts over data

Trio were charged with fraud by the RCMP in 2008

A Nortel accountant responsible for analyzing non-operating balance-sheet provisions testified Tuesday that she prepared charts in the last half of 2002 that "prioritized my level of discomfort" with unsupported reserves on the telecom giant's books.

Sue Shaw said she developed a sense of unease about portions of Nortel Networks Corp.'s $5.2 billion US in accounting liabilities and said she expressed concerns to her supervisor, Brian Harrison, the first witness in the fraud trial of three former Nortel senior executives.

$1B

The trial follows a series of restatements of Nortel's books starting with a late 2003 revision that found $1 billion in improperly recorded transactions. The trial began in Superior Court in Toronto on Jan. 16 and is expected to last six to eight months.

Shaw said she traced some of the provisions to their original balance-sheet entries and found limited supporting documentation. She said many of the provisions, to cover anticipated costs or account for expected revenue, on a list totalling $189 million had been booked well in the past and had not been updated.

She cited a dilemma in dealing with provisions that had no rationale for their continued presence on the balance sheet, but lacked justification for their release into income.

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Walmart eyes $750M push in Canada

Walmart Canada plans to spend more than $750 million this year to open, relocate or remodel 73 retail stores, including former Zellers locations.

The world's biggest retailer said Tuesday the initiative will create more than 14,000 jobs — about 3,500 new store positions and 10,500 in the trades and construction sector.

The hiring spree would be a big help to Canada's job picture as the January unemployment rate rose to 7.6 per cent as the economy essentially stood still.

Included on the list of Walmart Canada stores are 39 Zellers locations the Canadian subsidiary bought last year.

Walmart said more than half of the 73 projects will become supercentres, which offer an array of groceries as well as general merchandise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deleted photos still on Facebook

Fewer than three per cent of images still on system: Spokesman

Those embarrassing photographs you thought you deleted from Facebook are still there, a technology site reports.

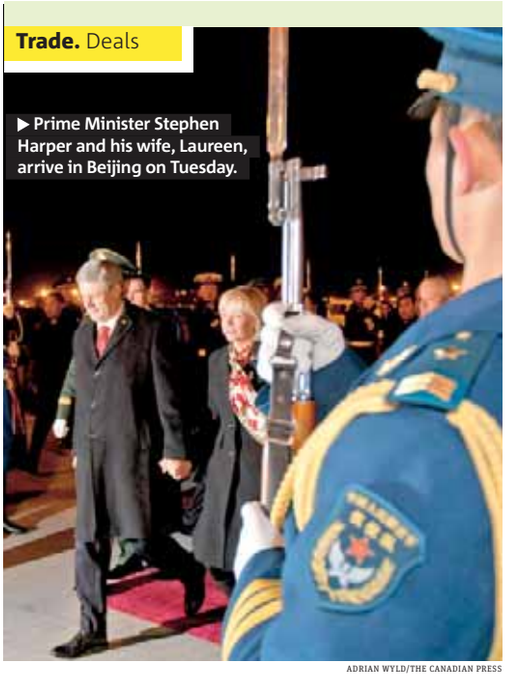
A photograph of a toddler posted and then deleted by a family member in 2008 is still there, Ars Technica senior editor Jacqui Cheng said. "The photo is still online, as are several others that readers linked me to that were deleted at various points in 2009 and 2010," Cheng said.

Ars Technica exposed the lingering deleted Facebook pictures three years ago. Facebook is trying to fix the problem, spokesman Frederic Wolens told the Star Tuesday. "We expect this process to be completed within the next month or two." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Buried photos

- **Until the system is fixed,** Facebook users can delete photographs from the site's main user interface. "But as long as someone had a direct link to the .jpg file in question, the photo would remain accessible for an indefinite amount of time," said Ars Technica senior editor Jacqui Cheng.
- **FB spokesman Frederic Wolens** said "until this migration is complete, URLs from deleted photos stored on this legacy system may still be accessible." The photo-storage system "did not always delete images from content-delivery networks in a reasonable period of time."

Trade. Deals



▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, arrive in Beijing on Tuesday.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trip to tighten China bond

Harper is on a visit to China with a team of oil and gas executives, part of a renewed focus on Canada's ability to satiate China's growing thirst for oil.

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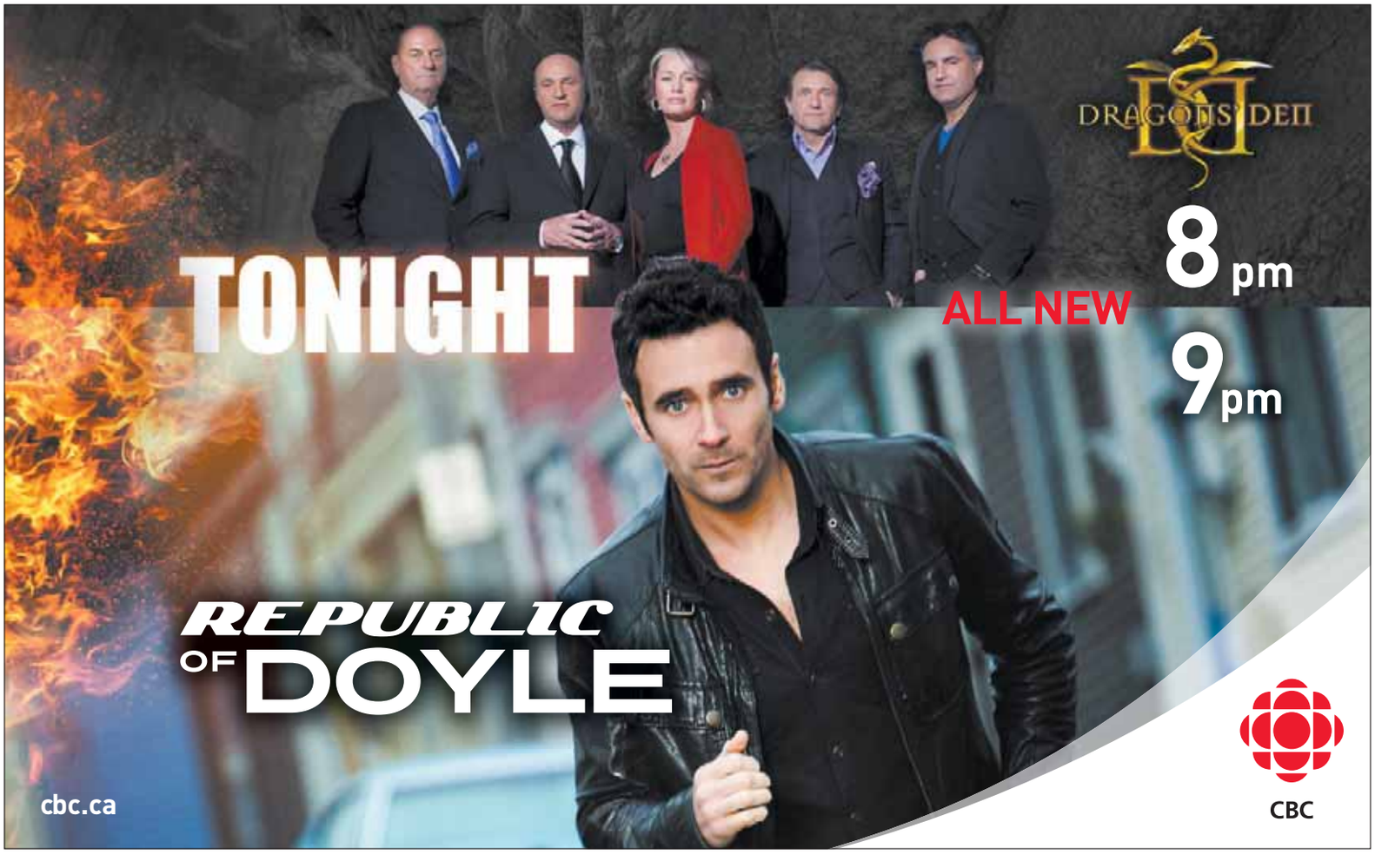


WHEN BUZZ PHRASE TURNS TO BUZZ KILL

JUST SAYIN' ...

NEIL MORTON
METRO

This column is totally going viral! How can I say that? Well, I can't, really.

But the point is that the phrase "going viral" is becoming so overused by media, bloggers, marketers, PR types and consumers alike to describe something that is "taking off" (when it isn't always), that has definitely more than hit its tipping point — and could soon jump the shark.

"Going viral" has become one of the sexiest phrases out there, and essentially means becoming extremely popular in a very short amount of time.

Now everyone wants to be part of something that's going viral, whether they're creating it or sharing it. The Internet and social media, of course, have fuelled virality in ways pre-Internet couldn't do, and the term "going viral" has seeped into popular culture.

It's referred to everywhere — in movies, TV, music and even books.

"'Going viral' has become so ubiquitous, so overused, that, often as not, it refers to things that aren't going viral."

Whether it's a YouTube video, a tweet, a Facebook photo, a meme, interactive flash game, app, software or a forwarded email, attaching the message "going viral" is an exciting way to get people to click on something and pass it on to others.

Certainly much of the shared stuff is awesome, but "going viral" has become so ubiquitous, so overused, that, often as not, it refers to things that aren't going viral.

The term is used as kind of a desperate gimmick by marketers to generate exposure for products and by everyday people looking for fame for stuff that really isn't catching on in the least.

So ... I propose the time has come for all of us to start being far more discriminating about our use of "going viral." To have some criteria and rules for what "going viral" is (e.g., 100,000 YouTube views in a matter of days is "going viral"; 9,000 views is not).

If we don't, we're totally going to ruin the meaning of this phrase through its overuse. People will stop clicking on it — or be far more suspicious — of anything that says "going viral." It will come more to mean "going anti-viral." Or buzz kill.

Failing that, perhaps we just move past it altogether and begin to use new words and phrases to describe the phenomenon of something getting popular really fast. Phrases like "holy contagious!" or "completely insane!" or "crazy buzz!"

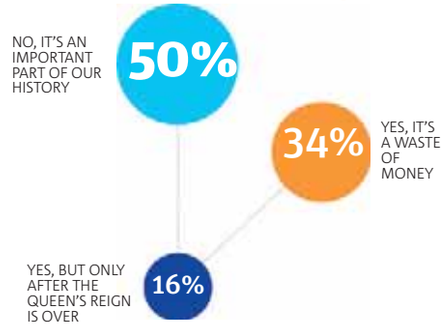
Those could just as easily start to generate new excitement for something taking off.

So, yes, as I was saying, this column is totally going viral, er, holy contagious!

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do you think Canada should abolish ties to the monarchy?



Local tweets

- **@spreadreaL:** Torn Achilles that's brutal Chauncey. I suggest you billup
- **@WillyNolove:** @JRDNmusic congrats on the juno nominations. Keep doing it big brother. #Canada'sTalent
- **@G__OR:** I hope @Drake cleans house this Juno's he got ripped off last year
- **@xerxesuchak:** Even more pumped for summer after seeing Avengers Superbowl commercial + Amazing Spider-Man trailer. May/July, hurry up and arrive already!
- **@theLeafs:** I was at Owen Nolan's first game with the #Leafs - Great night with him scoring 2 goals... Too bad it didn't work out the way it should have
- **@AdamCF:** Thank you, Councillor Ford. I accept your apology. Hopefully we can move on now.

GETTY IMAGES

Daily Zoom

He has pins and needles

Pain and prayer at Hindi fest

It looks like this unfortunate man has got tangled in some gigantic bicycle wheel.

But in reality this contraption is a centrepiece to Tuesday's Hindi festival of Thaipusam. Here, a devotee carries a "Kavadi" along a four-kilometre route from the Sri Srinivasa Perumal, one of Singapore's oldest temples. MWN

Thaipusam facts

- **For the faint-hearted, too.** Those not keen on self-impalement offer pots of milk to the gods.
- **Body be pure.** 48 days before the event, devotees abstain from meat, alcohol and sex.
- **Skin-pulling day.** Devotees pull carts by ropes hooked on their backs.

Physical bond to divine forces

Thaipusam, a Hindu festival celebrated in the Tamil month of Thai (in January or February, depending on the full moon), celebrates the deity Murugan. Devotees pierce body parts such as cheeks and tongues before carrying the "Kavadi."

These rituals stress the zealot's physical devotion to divine forces. MWN

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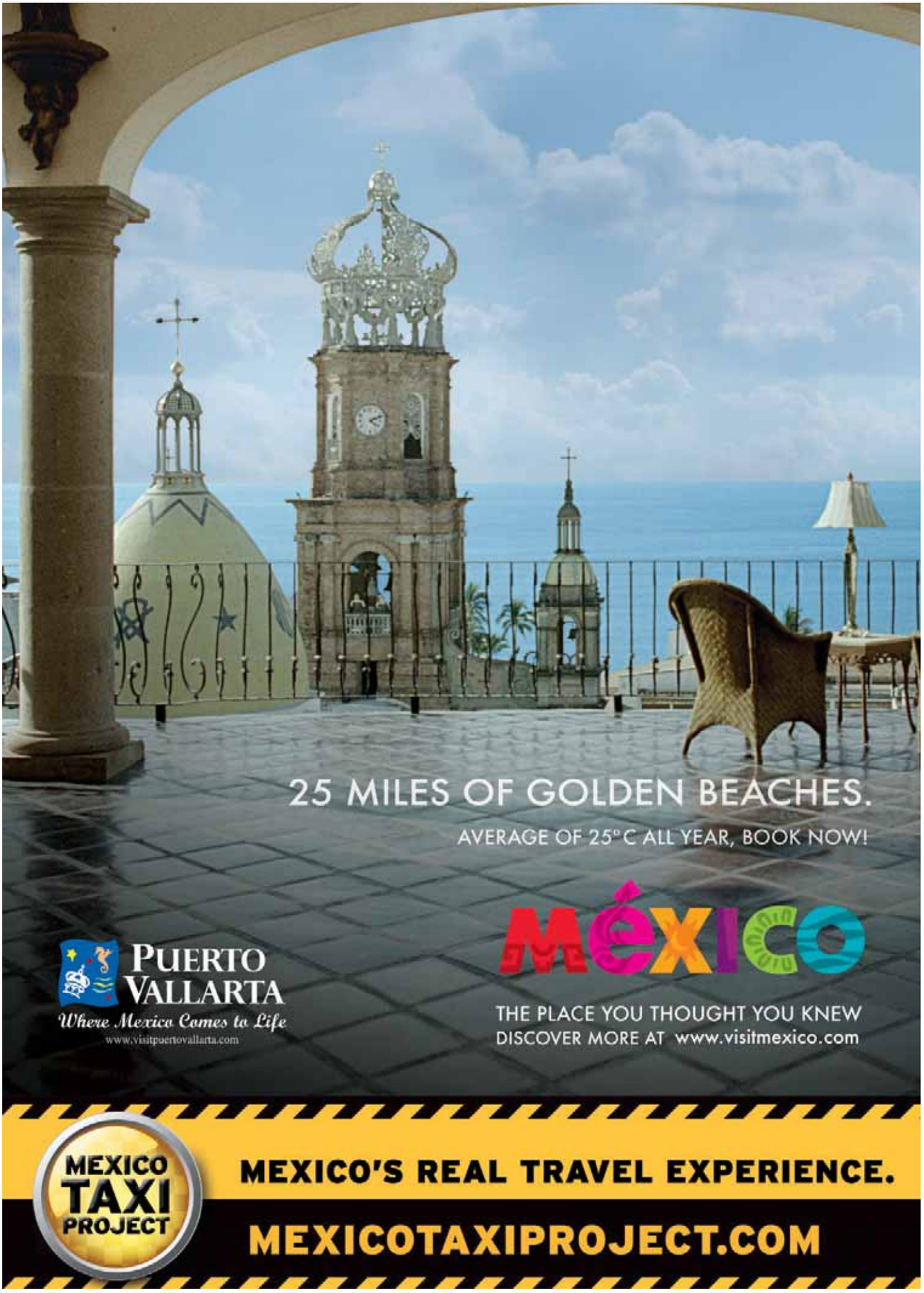
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- Tickets for the Juno Awards go on sale Friday
- Nickelback, Drake, Feist, Hedley among Juno nomination leaders

Who will rule this year's Junos?

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Deadmau5, a.k.a. Joel Zimmerman, appears on stage during the Juno Award nominations announcement Tuesday in Toronto.

City and Colour, Dan Mangan, Drake, Feist, Hedley and Nickelback led the Juno Award nominations Tuesday with four nods apiece, setting up a wide-open race at this year's gala in Ottawa.

No one artist managed to rise above the pack as nominations were announced at a glitzy, crammed gathering in Toronto. After the first group of nominees, Avril Lavigne, Michael Bublé and Deadmau5 followed with three nods each.

Teen sensation Justin Bieber also earned a pair of nominations — including one for album of the year — while other multiple nominees included Blue Rodeo co-frontman Jim Cuddy, Hamilton rockers Arkells and Montreal-based indie-rockers Braids.

With so many multiple nominees, many artists will be duking it out with one another over and over again in several categories.

"I could kick Bieber's ass but not Drake — he's a bit hardcore," laughed Niagara Falls, Ont., electronic producer Deadmau5 (nee Joel Zimmerman), who's up for the Juno fan choice award and artist of the year — a nomination he called a "shocker."

He's probably less surprised about being up for best dance recording, a category he's won four years in a row.

"It's not really weird when you're only one of like five Canadians making dance music these days," he said of the unique scenario. "(But) I'm sure a lot more are, and that just kind of paves the way for a lot more to be recognized."

Cuddy, meanwhile, has two nominations for his third solo record, Skyscraper Soul, on the same night that Blue Rodeo will be inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

"It's huge," Cuddy said. "Obviously we love the status we have as a band that's been around for a long time, but you do want your newest work to be acknowledged. So I'm very, very pleased."

Of the marquee names nominated, Mangan might have come as a surprise to some fans. Among his four nods, the 28-year-old Vancouver native is up for new artist of the year and songwriter of the year, a category in which he'll compete with Cuddy, Ron Sexsmith, Feist and Dallas Green.

Album of the year will pit Christmas albums by Bieber and Bublé up against the latest from Drake, Avril Lavigne and Nickelback, while the field for artist of the year includes City and Colour, Deadmau5, Feist, Bublé and, yes, Drake again.

More performers were also added to the lineup on Tuesday — including group of the year nominees Nickelback and Hedley — joining Feist, City and Colour, Deadmau5 and Blue Rodeo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shatner's show

Star Trek icon William Shatner has been named host of the April 1 gala, to be broadcast on CTV.

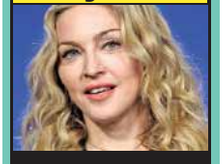
Picking Shatner to oversee the awards is a generational shift from last year, when the show was hosted by Toronto rapper Drake, who received strong reviews for showcasing his comedic side during his turn as MC.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ William Shatner

2 scene

Madge is back



Madonna's not finished with stadiums. Live Nation Entertainment announced Tuesday that the Material Girls first tour since 2009 will include a Sept. 6 show at Yankee Stadium. Her world tour will start May 29 in Tel Aviv, Israel. The North American portion of the tour will include Montreal, San Jose and Cleveland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy Endings: Six characters in search of hilarity, and finding it, on TV's funniest show

Stage Notes

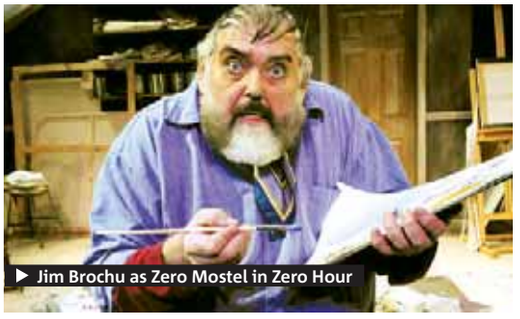
JONATHAN NAYMARK
SCENEOPOLIS.COM

From Zero to hero

One-man show pays tribute to famous American comedian Zero Mostel

What happens when you take an embittered yet famous thespian that was lauded for his comedic sensibilities and yet yearned for acceptance in an entirely different artistic medium?That is the relatively ironic life story of Zero Mostel, a famous American comedian who starred in several successful Broadway musicals in the 1960s including The Producers, Fiddler on the Roof and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. While Mostel found his greatest success as an actor on Broadway and in Hollywood, he often described himself as a painter who acts; not an actor who paints.

HANDOUT



Jim Brochu as Zero Mostel in Zero Hour

Mostel's larger-than-life history is explored in Jim Brochu's one-man show Zero Hour, which opens today, Feb. 8, at Toronto's Bathurst Theatre. Enacting a fictional interview with the New York Times Zero Hour allows Brochu to explore Mostel's entire life, including the years he was blacklisted for being a suspected communist, as well as his personal life.

Written by Brooklynite Jim Brochu in 2006, the play has toured several North American cities to great acclaim. Brochu's reverence of his source material is apparent as Brochu himself notes: "This show is for you, Zero — with my admiration."

One-man shows can be incredibly difficult to perform — entertaining an audience with nothing more than a stage and a set requires a enigmatic performer — luckily for Mr. Mostel, Brochu embodies his enigmatic personality with more than enough gusto. Zero Hour opens tonight at the Bathurst Street Theatre and runs until March 11. Save 50% off tickets to Zero Hour with sceneopolis — Zero Hour tickets bought via sceneopolis.com start at only $30.

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Russell wants his brand on Deschanel

Katy Perry look-alike caught the eye of Russell Brand

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

In the wake of his split from Katy Perry, Russell Brand has reportedly set his sights on New Girl star Zooey Deschanel — and has been sending her "fun, flirty texts," according to Hollyscoop.

Sources say that Brand "thinks she's hysterically funny and cute, too. He loves her quirky sense of humour, and thinks they'd be great together both on-and-off screen."

Coincidentally (or not!), Deschanel filed for divorce from husband Ben Gibbard just days before Brand filed for divorce from Perry.

This is weird, because the fact the two women look alike is well documented.

"He loves her quirky sense of humour, and thinks they'd be great together..."
SOURCE

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Russell Brand has been courting a woman who looks a lot like his ex Katy Perry.

In 2009, Deschanel actually complained to MTV News about constantly being confused with the popular Perry.

"It's a little bit annoying, to be totally blunt. The only similarity that we have is that we look a little bit alike," she told the site. "I have met her before. She seems like a nice person. I'm happy that she's famous enough now that she's not going out and being mistaken for me."

Celebrity tweets

@Diane_Keaton

"Thanks for all the birthday wishes, but it was last month!"

@SteveMartinToGo

"Uploaded photo of myself in Speedo to comply with Google's new privacy policy."

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3 life

Travel in brief

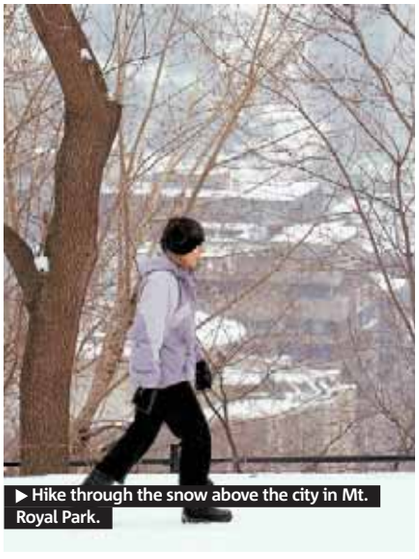
One of the 20th century's most famous performers who spent his childhood in Appleton, Wis., will be the subject of an exhibit at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. The show about magician and escape artist Harry Houdini will examine his life, legend and cultural influence. Houdini: Art and Magic starts Feb. 11 and runs through May 13.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Namaste, travellers! San Francisco airport opens yoga room for flying yogis

GENERAL

▶ Eat like a local at Jean-Talon Market.



▶ Hike through the snow above the city in Mt. Royal Park.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The BIXI bike-share system offers citywide access for just $5.

Montreal is perfect for...

- You love your friends because each one has a unique personality
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AMBER RAY
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

For the explorer: Lace up your hiking boots and get around via alternative transportation

Situated on the mountain in the middle of Montreal island, Mt. Royal Park doesn't just provide exercise getting to the top — the scenic green space designed by Central Park mastermind Frederick Law Olmsted offers excellent views, too. In winter, explore the park via skis or snowshoes; in the warmer months, take to the bike paths. Gain access to any of the 5,000-plus cruisers in the BIXI bike-share system for citywide sightseeing for just $5.

For the fashionista: Score a fabulous find from a local designer

Montreal is fiercely proud of its homegrown designers — and stepping into their boutiques, it's not hard to see why. For the conscientious snow bunny, Harricana (3000 rue Saint-Antoine Ouest, 514-287-6517) is a dream come true: Designer Mariouche Gagne upcycles outdated fur fashions into classically cool new pieces, like a knitted fur vest.

For more secondhand finds, pop into the "friperies" in the trendy Plateau District. We like Folles Alliees (365 Av. du Mont-Royal E., 514-843-4904) for its finely curated, mint-condition vintage pieces and Retromania Boutique (820 Av. du Mont-Royal E., 514-596-2618) for its well-organized, affordable finds that could have come from your hip sister's closet.

For the culturephile: Eat your way through the city like a local

You could spend hours in Montreal's markets, sampling the local food and mingling with the people who grow and purchase it. Little Italy's Jean-Talon Market (7070 Henri-Julien St., 514-937-7754) is a year-round emporium of all things fresh and a true feast for all your senses.

But save some room for the bagels. Montreal-style bagels are smaller, sweeter and denser than the New York variety. They're always baked in a wood-fire oven — right in front of you at St-Viateur Bagel & Cafe (multiple locations, stviateurbagel.com) — which makes it worth a stop for breakfast or lunch.

Hotel deal

▶ Tourisme Montreal is offering 50 per cent off your second night at more than 25 participating hotels, as well as a discount booklet for major attractions. Visit tourisme-montreal.org for full package details.

Postcards from the planet

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS
GLOBETROTTINGMAMA.COM

SAMODE, RAJASTHAN, INDIA FEB. 4, 2012

I knew from the moment the man placed the bindi on my forehead at Samode Palace that this small village was special. This typical Indian sign of welcome worked — we immediately felt at home. That afternoon Peer Nagal, a staff member, walked us through the town, his pride and respect always leading the way. We left with an armful of handmade bangles and smitten with the hardworking locals who needed only a few hours to weave their magic.

WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER'S FAMILY ADVENTURE AND TRAVEL TIPS AT WHERE PARENTSTALK.COM

Canmore's sights

This Alberta town offers all the scenery of Banff without the hordes of tourists and park restrictions

It's not just another pretty place.

The town of Canmore, nestled on the eastern edge of Banff National Park, offers all of the spectacular views but none of the restrictions or droves of tourists of its bigger brother Banff to the west.

Today, the big draw in the community of 12,000 is tourism and more particularly skiing in the winter and golf, mountain biking and hiking in the summer.

"What we offer that is different from Banff is a low-key atmosphere. It's not quite so touristy and busy. You can escape the crowds here in Canmore and this is a real community. People live here and work here and call it home," said Michael Roycroft, the area manager for Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park.

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canmore has become a destination for cross-country skiers.

The Canmore Nordic Centre was developed for the 1988 Olympic Games and remains a world-class facility. During the winter months it is a beacon for cross-country skiers, both experienced and novice. Many of the same trails that attract skiers in the winter bring in mountain bikers and those interested in orienteering in the summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- Canmore is about 100 km west of Calgary on the TransCanada Highway.
- For more information visit tourismcanmore.com

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Departs Feb 27/sqv/jz.

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star $497
Allegro Varadero — + taxes & fees $277
Departs Feb 28/nol/ts.

Cayo Coco 7 Nights 4-Star $607
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Sol Papagayo — + taxes & fees $263
Departs Feb 11/sqv/jz.

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Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights 4-Star + Cirque du Soleil $339
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Boston St Patrick's Day, Air + 3 Nights $434
Courtyard Downtown Boston — + taxes & fees $127
INCLUDES central accom near Fenway Park during St. Patrick's day. Departs Mar 16/ggv/dl. UPGRADE to 4-star Westin Waterfront for $7 per night. ADD 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage for $32 per day.

New York City St Patrick's Day Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $504
W New York Downtown — + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES Manhattan accom during St. Patrick's day. Departs Mar 16/ggv/dl. UPGRADE to 5-star Jumeirah Essex House for $71 per night.

Cruises

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$199 USD
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CRUISE roundtrip Port Canaveral and visit CocoCay and Nassau. Sails Sep10/rci. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom for $10 per night.

Western Caribbean
6-Night Cruise USD $299
Carnival Valor — + taxes & fees USD $97
CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Key West, Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios. Sails Feb 26/ccl. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom for $10 per night.

Transatlantic 13-Night Cruise USD $419
Adventure of the Seas — + taxes & fees USD $72
CRUISE San Juan to Malaga and visit St Thomas, St Maarten, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Madeira. Sails Apr 15/rci.

Hawai'i 11-Night Cruise USD $799
Celebrity Millennium — + taxes & fees USD $74
CRUISE Ensenada to Honolulu and visit Hilo, Kona, Maui (overnight) and Honolulu (overnight). Sails Oct 22/cel. UPGRADE to oceanview stateroom for $27 per night.

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TICO

A bite-size holiday

Pintxos are the Basque answer to tapas, served up on the counters of bars throughout San Sebastian

Snack and drink your way around town for a tasty, traditional experience

EMMA E. FORREST
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

CONTRIBUTED

Pintxos

You wouldn't normally rate an eatery by how dirty the floor is, but in San Sebastian, Spain, the more discarded napkins and toothpicks that pile on the floor, the better. Here, the mountain of debris beneath your feet is a sign of a popular place to eat pintxos, the Basque region's answer to tapas.

The wealthy coastal city of San Sebastian has more Michelin stars per resident than any other

area in the world, but you don't need to be a millionaire to enjoy pintxos; these elegant bite-sized snacks cost just a couple of euros a plate, and are presented on the counter of bars throughout town.

Locals meet for a few pintxos washed down with a tumbler of txacoli, a local slightly-sparkling dry white wine, just before going home for dinner. The custom is to ask the barman for a plate, load it up with pintxos that tickle your fancy, then pay up for whatever you eat and drink when you leave. These tasty treats often feature local ingredients including ham, prawn, mushrooms and peppers spiked with a toothpick. Gilda, a tiny skewer of olive, anchovy and pepper, is a classic.

A tasting tour

The alleyways of the city's picturesque old town is peppered with bars offering pintxos of every sort, but as you'd expect, the standard is not equal everywhere, so to help us navigate the bars, we hitched a ride with a handful of other gastronauts on a pintxos-tasting tour with gastronomic experience organizers San Sebastian Food.

Our cheery guide, Elin, not only took away the anxiety of uncovering and ordering the best pintxos at the best bars, but she gave us real insight into a region and city where food is taken so seriously that men meet up to cook and eat at 'txoko,' private gents-only eating societies where — in other cities — they might congregate at a golf or squash club.

First stop was a bar owned by former boxer Paco Bueno, specializing in 'gambas en gabardine,' plump prawns deep-fried in their batter 'jackets.' A couple of alleyways away we sunk our teeth into a simple pintxos of perfect, succulent sirloin steak, and a heap of flavoursome green Gernika peppers, washed down with a glass of well-rounded red.

And more...

Round the corner, we scoffed down fried patatas bravas and mussels with a rich spicy sauce. At the next bar, we perched at a table al fresco for rich foie gras and veal cheeks on cauliflower puree. The finale was a culinary experience at award-winning Zeruko, where we were served a dish of smoking cod with lettuce shot, and a desert of an egg made of lemon cream with a passion fruit 'yolk' to be mopped up with a lemon sponge tower. To finish? A pretty 'Sechuan Button,' a flower that we were told would 'cleanse our palate,' that gave our mouths a searing gustatory trip, a suitably adventurous end to our culinary journey.

San Sebastian

First stop was a bar owned by former boxer Paco Bueno, specializing in 'gambas en gabardine,' plump prawns deep-fried in their batter 'jackets.'

2 GREAT PINTXOS BARS

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL
La Mejillonera

This boisterous and hugely popular bar is great for seafood. The fried calamares or squid and mussels with tasty 'tigre' sauce are a speciality and the patatas bravas, fried potatoes with a spicy mayonnaise sauce are the best in town.
Calle Puerto 15

EXPERIMENTAL
Zeruko

This award-winning bar takes pintxos to another level, with imaginative, experimental and visually-arresting fare. The speciality is 'La Boguera' (the bonfire).
Calle Pescadería 10, www.barzeruko.com

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Quick tips

TOUR

San Sebastian Food not only offers lively tours of the best pintxo bars in town, it offers food and wine tastings at its airy, stylish studio in the heart of the old town, as well as cookery courses, short breaks and walking tours throughout the region.
sansebastianfood.com

▶ Enjoy a wine tasting

BUY

Bring back high quality gastronomic souvenirs from gourmet boutique Zapore Jai in San Sebastian's old town. The owner hand-carves high quality acorn-fed Bellota Iberian ham and salamis on the premises, as well as beautifully packaged tins of fish, foie gras, cheese and wines from the Basque region. If you don't want to carry it in your hand luggage, order online.
zaporejai.com

STAY

Once the iconic Astoria Cinema, Astoria 7 is now a quirky but stylish hotel that pays homage to the city's famous annual film festival. Each of the 102 rooms is dedicated to one of the film industry heavyweights who have attended the festival since it started in 1953, from Ang Lee to Angelica Houston, and decorated with photos of them taken during their stays in the city.
Rooms from $124, astoria7hotel.com

▶ Astoria 7

WHAT TO EAT IN NEW YORK CITY

Planning a trip there this year? Our favourite chefs tell us what's going to be huge Get your taste receptors ready for family-friendly grub that's lower-priced but not lower in taste

DOROTHY ROBINSON
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ "We're going to see more ethnic Jewish cuisines this year," says veteran New York chef Anita Lo.

Eduard Frauneder

Co-chef/owner, Seasonal Restaurant & Weinbar
seasonalnyc.com
Austrian tavern Edi & the Wolf
ediandthewolf.com
"In 2012, I see a continued focus on regional sourcing; the return of traditional cooking methods such as curing, smoking and pickling; and rustic dining with lower-priced concepts. I envision more authentic concepts that emphasize regional cuisines and an increase in smaller, more focused menus."

Romuald Jung

Executive chef of Bagatelle New York
(opening 2012: bistrotbagatelle.com)
"Ironically, since Bagatelle will be larger in its new space than it was at its previous location, I think the trend is toward smaller restaurants. People want an intimate experience. Dining out has come to mimic the feeling of being at a very high-end dinner party more than in years past. My favorite example of this is Chef's Table at Brooklyn Fare."

Michael 'Kiwi' Camplin

Executive chef at The Vinatta Project
vinattaproject.com
"I think we are returning to the concept of the shared family meal, even among friends. More and more people will want to learn how to cook and will therefore be even pickier about what they choose to consume at restaurants. And the concept of the group meal will carry over into restaurant dining."

Todd MacDonald

Executive chef at Villa Pacri and La Gazzetta
villapacri.com
"I think we'll see an increase of small plate-type places as I think people like to have the option of snacking on a few different flavours as opposed to one large plate of food. This feels more cost-effective to the traditional New York diner — it feels like you're getting more for your money. It's also a more social experience, allowing for a more convivial group dining experience."

Anita Lo

Chef and owner of Annisa Restaurant and author of "Cooking Without Borders"
annisarestaurant.com
"We're going to see more ethnic Jewish cuisines – Roman Jewish food, Spanish Jewish food, etc. I also think wines from the Levant region in Spain (Ribeira Sacra) and more artisanal soy products will be on the rise this year."

Maxwell Britten

Bar manager at Maison Premiere
maisonpremiere.com
"A few trends I see making their way in 2012 are carbonation in cocktails, room temperature cocktails and shrubs [vinegar] as a citrus alternative. I see even more ice. There is always room to go over the top. And something tells me that in the realm of ice, our chefs and bar people of the hospitality industry are going to keep it going."

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It's not the first U.S. destination on your mind It's not even the fifth But lovers of the outdoors might want to skip Colorado

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THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK

Welcome to Big Sky Country.

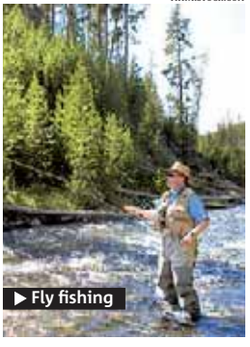
WHAT TO DO:

Montana's wide-open spaces make it ideal terrain for hiking, horseback riding, and biking. Here's what we like to do in Big Sky Country:

Camping: Montana houses two spectacular national parks, Glacier and Yellowstone (of Old Faithful fame). Just stopping through? Try Glacier's Going-to-the-Sun Road, a 50-mile drive through some of the park's best scenery.

Fly fishing: Montana is home to the world's best fly fishing, in a network of sparkling rivers and creeks. Hire a guide to loan you some gear and to show you where the locals cast. (For a refresher, skip the movie and read Missoula native Norman Maclean's "A River Runs Through It")

THINKSTOCK.COM



Fly fishing

Ghost hunting: During a mining boom in the late 19th century, a number of small towns and mining camps were created in the western part of the state. While long since abandoned, many of these ghost towns have been preserved and are open for tours.

WHAT TO EAT:

Montana may not seem like a culinary destination, but that's changing quickly. A bounty of local produce and traditionally-raised organic beef, lamb, and elk, are attracting top culinary talent. And beer lovers can sample suds from over 20 microbreweries. Saddle up at a local bar and order a Kettle House Cold Smoke Scotch Ale or local favorite Moose Drool. For a treat, stop by Philipsburg's Sweet Palace, the second-largest candy store in the country. Try the Flips: handmade marshmallows dipped in chocolate and covered with toasted coconut.

THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK

The Ranch at Rock Creek

WHERE TO STAY:

The Ranch at Rock Creek (theranchatrockcreek.com) offers the best of Montana recreation by day and fine dining by night. Situated on 10 square miles of pristine wilderness just north of the Pintler Mountains, the Ranch offers fly-fishing, horseback-riding, hiking, sport shooting, and archery, as well as a full-service spa. New to ranch life, Billy Crystal? No problem. The ranch provides all necessary equipment, from footwear to fly reels.

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Say it now: Wah-hah-ka

The staff of the Oaxaca Times, the city's premier English-language newspaper, guides you through the unpronounceable delights of the southern city

The great Mexican journalist German Dehesa wrote of Oaxaca: "Getting to Oaxaca is not a question of trains or planes: it requires an adventurous spirit and open heart... I suspect that Oaxaca's location is neither geographical nor historical — it is mythical."

Why does Oaxaca inspire such prose? What attracts so many adventurous spirits and open hearts to Oaxaca? Read on.

First time?

First of all, thanks for coming. The tourism industry here was booming in the early 2000s, as foreigners heard more about our cooking and culture. Then, a teacher protest in 2006 sparked violence—and scary headlines. Visitors slowed. Thankfully, our reputation as a safe, warm state has returned. We're biased, but recommend you start at the ICC (Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura), the school that adjoins our newspaper. The teachers there offer not just language classes, but full immersion: you learn to cook, salsa and be a Oaxacan. And it's close to the sights, including the towering Iglesia de Santo Domingo. For more info, see iccoax.com.

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▶ Santo Domingo

Eat and drink

The moles here are famous: Often misunderstood by foreigners as a spicy Mexican chocolate sauce, such a description does a great injustice to the rich, multifaceted deliciousness of the dish. A mole combines more than 35 ingredients in a process that can take five days. For authenticity, try the one at Los Pacos (lospacos.com.mx). Additionally, Friday is our favourite day in Oaxaca for one simple reason: tacos. Usually reserved for a late night snack, they are the main event at the Llano Park market every week. Tacos can be divided into two major groups: ones that used to bleat (kid and lamb) and all the rest (pork and beef). The former can be sampled at Caprino Chivo y Borrego. Owner Francisco Fuentes says meats are prepared first in the oven, then braised in a broth and pulled.

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▶ Buen provecho

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Please donate this February at heartandstroke.ca and make death wait.

HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Consider visiting in July, when the Guelaguetza features costumed dancers.

Been there before?

Maybe so, but you probably haven't seen Copalita, the latest archaeological site to open in Oaxaca. Discovered in 1997, the Mixtec and Zapotec city, nearly two thousand years old, just got a $7.8 million renovation. Facing the Pacific Ocean, it has been referred to as the Tulum of the Pacific Coast, one of the few archaeological sites that's also a seaside tourism destination (it overlooks a lagoon flowing into the ocean). Part of its facilities include a modern museum with pieces found onsite, including jewellery and tools made from obsidian and jade traded from northern parts of the country. And outside the shop: 11 endemic bird species and 86 acres to explore.

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGIA E HISTORIA

▶ Copalita

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Shopping!

A green donkey with horns, a purple iguana, a blue polka-dotted horse, a porcupine with red and yellow spikes — who would have thought these curious and colourful animals that prowl on street corners and in markets had been inspired by a nightmare?

Alebrijes (gypsy slang for "a difficult tangled thing, shaped in confusing or fantastic figures") were invented by Pedro Linares in Mexico City as a result of fever dreams.

The artist molded them out of paper, and later, Manuel Jiménez, a talented carver of Arrazola, was inspired by Linares' creations and began carving them in wood.

Those fantastic creatures are what you find in shops today.

We recommend visiting many studios — it's fun seeing the different styles. We love those by Jacobo and Maria Angeles Ojeda. (tilcajete.org).

THINKSTOCK.COM

▶ An Alebrije

Stay in

Oaxaca offers a countryside charm with cutting-edge arts. Both are embodied by Hotel Azul, a sleek, boutique hotel featuring a fountain designed by the city's leading artist, Francesco Toledo.

Go out

To salsa, head to Candela (Murgia 413), a classy joint. And wherever you go, have a shot of mescal, made from maguey, a cactus. We like Los Danzantes brand.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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tico.ca

Drink of the week

Chocolate Covered Strawberry Martini

Valentine's Day is fast approaching. Satisfy your sweetheart's sweet tooth with this Chocolate Covered Strawberry Martini.

- 1 1/4 oz Frangelico
- 1 1/4 oz Carolans
- 3/4 oz cherry brandy

Shake all ingredients up with ice. Pour into a chilled Martini glass. Garnish with a fresh strawberry.

SKYY SPIRITS

Penne perfection

There's nothing as comforting as gooey cheeses baked into pasta Four delicious ones are used here

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
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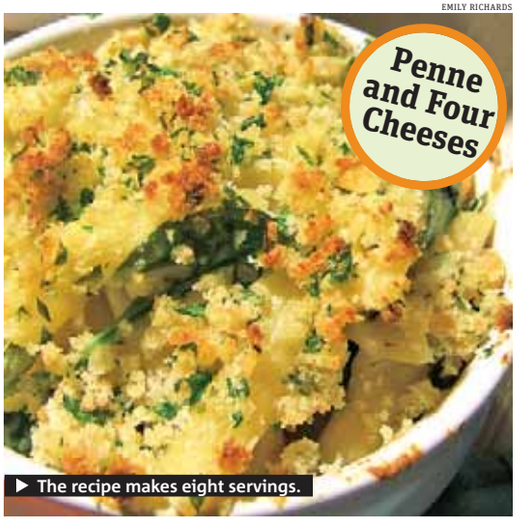
Gooey cheeses combine to create a warm and cosy feel to this Penne and Four Cheese favourite.

EMILY RICHARDS



The recipe makes eight servings.

Preparation:

1 Melt butter in saucepan over medium heat and cook hallot, garlic and thyme 5 mins. or until softened. Stir in flour and cook, stirring 1 min.

2 Whisk cream and cook, whisking occasionally 10 mins. or until thickened enough to coat back of a spoon. Remove from heat. Add fontina, ricotta Gorgonzola and Parmigiano into cream mix. Whisk until smooth. Stir in basil and keep warm.

3 In large pot of boiling salted water, cook penne 8 mins. Add spinach and cook 2 mins. until spinach wilts and pasta is al dente. Drain well and return it to pot. Add cheese sauce and stir to combine well. Spoon pasta mix into 8 French onion soup bowls and place on baking sheet.

4 Topping: Combine breadcrumbs, parsley, Parmigiano and butter in bowl. Sprinkle over the pasta. Place in preheated 425 F (220 C) oven and bake for about 10 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup (50 mL) butter
- 2 small shallots, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chopped fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) flour
- 3 cups (750 mL) 5% light cream
- 1 cup (250 mL) shredded fontina cheese
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) crumbled Gorgonzola cheese (about 4 oz/125 g)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) freshly grated Parmigiano- Reggiano
- 1 1/2 lbs (750 g) penne rigate pasta
- 1 bag (10 oz/300 g) baby spinach, chopped
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped fresh basil or Italian parsley

Topping:

- 2 cups (500 mL) fresh bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) butter, melted

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TICO

BIG PICTURE

MBA GRADS CAN ANALYZE PROBLEMS FROM MANY ANGLES

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

With average Canadian MBA students earning as much as $143,000 after graduation, according to the Financial Post's 2010 MBA program index, there is good reason the masters of business administration is gaining popularity in Canada and worldwide.

Students who have an MBA have been exposed to many different areas of business they probably would not have otherwise, says Shai Dubey, director of the Queen's MBA program and academic director of the university's Masters of International Business. That experience allows MBA grads to analyze problems critically from many angles.

"You provide added value for your company because you have a well-rounded perspective on how a business should work," he explains.

Going through an MBA program is also about personal exploration, he says. "It's about exploring ... how to leverage your skills, how to minimize your weaknesses."

Queen's MBA students graduate with an understanding of the big picture, but also with the skills to execute on that understanding, Dubey says.

Leadership skills are a vital component of the degree. "Within an organization people do MBAs because they want to get promoted, and to get promoted you need to be able to lead people," says Dubey.

Good leadership is very different from managing people, he explains. "You can give anyone a title, but that doesn't mean they can actually lead." The Queen's program is designed to give students many opportunities to exercise their leadership skills. It's a trait to look for if you are choosing a school, says Dubey.

Because teamwork is such an important aspect of an MBA, the people you work closely with in class can be just as important as the skills you learn.

"You're forming life-long friendships," says Dubey, who adds he regularly sees Queen's alumni recruit for their own businesses from their alma mater because they trust the quality of the education. That's the power of networking.

However, "where people end up very much depends on what kind of background they have and what kind of industry they're going into," Dubey says.

– Stephanie Orford

DALHOUSIE'S 'EXCEPTIONAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT'

STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

Located in Halifax, Dalhousie University offers the country's only Corporate Residency MBA program.

The 22-month program combines 14 months of classroom instruction and an eight-month paid work term where students work in an entry-level MBA position.

"They have substantial responsibility in their jobs," says Dr. Scott Comber, the program's director and also a faculty member in the program.

The program's corporate partners are spread across the public, private and non-profit sectors, and include organizations like American Express, Colgate-Palmolive and Scotiabank.

Comber says to date, 75 per cent of students have been hired on full time by the corporate partner after their work term has ended.

The next intake of students will take place in July, and Comber says the program offers "an exceptional return on investment."

With tuition costing close to $39,000 for the program, that is nearly offset by the corporate residency salary because students make an average of $29,000 for their work term, says Comber. Plus, there are potential scholarships available.

The admission requirements for the program are a four-year undergraduate degree, a GPA of at least 3.0 and a GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) score of 550 or higher.

The four-year undergraduate degree requirement is not just restricted to commerce degrees either, it includes faculties such as arts, science and engineering.

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The Ryerson MBA allows students to focus on the management of technology and innovation by specializing in supply chain management, media management, and information technology management. It meets the need for managers with a global orientation in the dynamic environment of modern business.

It is a challenging program that offers you a broad business management education with an international outlook. The curriculum design encourages collaboration among industry, students and faculty through integrative learning and the option of work placements and international exchanges.

IMAGE SOURCE/THINKSTOCK

According to Murtaza Haider, the associate dean of research and graduate programs, the Ryerson University MBA is the most accessible, relevant, and personal MBA degree in Canada.

"Ryerson MBA offers students the opportunity to become part of a rigorous learning environment that prepares students for challenging careers in the professional world without having to incur hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition fees."

With small classes, the learning environment cultivates problem-solving, critical thinking and communication skills. Graduates will have the knowledge to analyze technology requirements and manage innovation in a variety of contexts.

"The business and management relevant curriculum, offered over a 12-month period, prepares students for careers in global business, technology, and innovation management," says Haider.

And thanks to a $15-million donation from Ted and Loretta Rogers, each year the Ted Rogers School of Management issues a total of 18 Graduate Entrance Scholarships and Awards worth up to $20,000 each.

Ted Rogers School of Management's downtown location allows easy access to and from the financial district through Toronto's famed underground Path.

INFO SESSION

Join Ryerson faculty and staff for the next MBA information night.

An MBA and MMSc information session will be held Feb. 13 from 6:15- 8 p.m. in Room TRS 1-067 (7th floor) in the Ted Rogers School of Management Building, 575 Bay St. (entrance at 55 Dundas St. W.). For more, email mba@ryerson.ca or visit ryerson.ca/mba.

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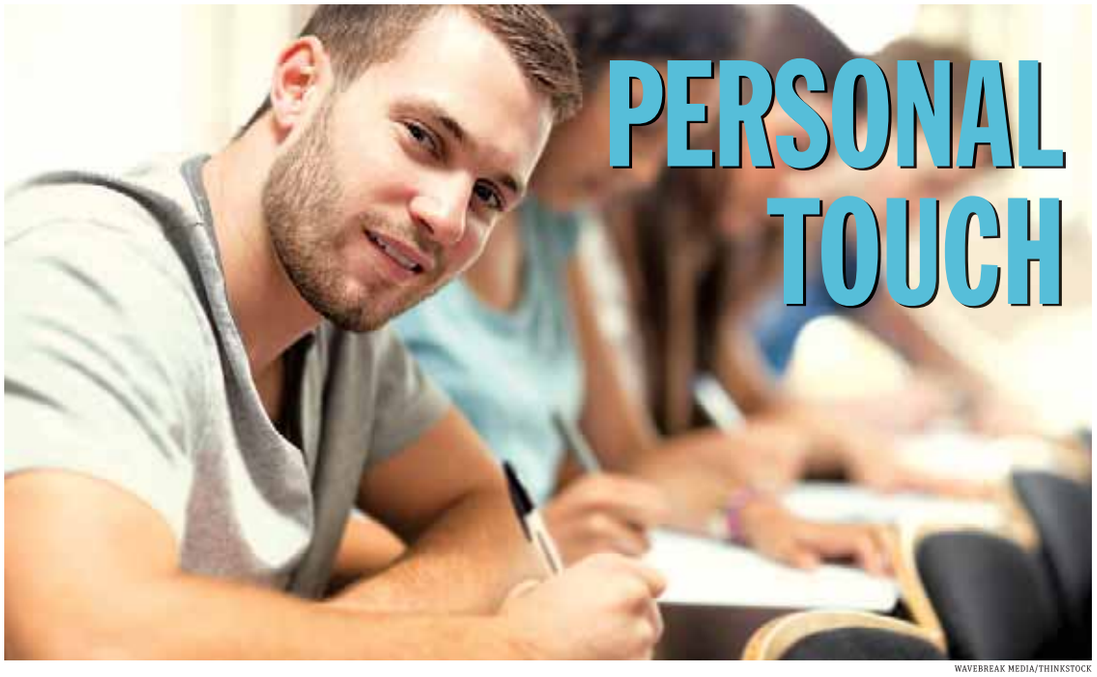

PERSONAL TOUCH

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

IS CRITICAL PIECE FOR UOIT'S INNOVATIVE, LEADING-EDGE MBA

Known for its innovation in curriculum development, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) delivers flexible programs in a technology-rich learning environment.

One of UOIT's most exciting offerings is the broad-based master of business administration (MBA) — a very integrated and flexible program, tailored to each student's goals. The first program of its kind in the region of Durham, the MBA@UOIT has been developed by world-class experts.

"We've been very strong in our research base and now we're ramping up in our professional areas and the MBA is part of that," says Brian Campbell, dean of the office of graduate studies. "Our plans are for it to stay small for a while. That personal touch — the high involvement of faculty with students — this is a critical piece for us."

A unique option at UOIT is to combine the MBA with the master of information technology security (MITS) degree. This combination emphasizes excellence in graduate-level business and information technology (IT) security knowledge.

Current UOIT MBA student David Fisher looks forward to a leadership role in the non-profit sector and says the program, "Just changes the way you think and you approach problems. It just does change your mindset on how various business problems can be solved. We analyze lot of cases; we basically work on them as a group and dig into what are the root issues and what are the solutions to apply."

Dean Campbell believes the MBA program fulfils a need for the burgeoning communities just east of Toronto.

"It's a new program, it's only been going for a couple of years. Of course, it's a new institution," he explains, conscious of the recent development in the Durham region. "Oshawa is growing and the university is a major force; there's a lot of excitement."

GLOBAL ISSUES

UOIT's innovative MBA program is designed around global issues and a strong focus on real-world case studies. It will provide you with a unique opportunity to probe deeper into one of the following areas of specialized streams: Finance; international business; logistics and supply chain management; marketing; and technology management.

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Schulich Leads in Rankings Schulich is ranked in the world's top tier of business schools by *The Economist* (#9 in the world); *Forbes* (10th best non-US school); *Bloomberg Businessweek* (9th best non-US school); The Aspen Institute, a US think tank (#2 in the world in Social and Environmental Leadership); and *Expansión* (#18 in the world) in their most recent global MBA surveys. The Schulich MBA is also ranked #1 in Canada by *The Economist, Forbes,* The Aspen Institute and *Expansión*.

DOUBLE DEGREE WITH VIU

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY PHOTO

The Vancouver Island University (VIU) masters of business administration program cultivates international business leaders, according to Brock Dykeman, director of MBA programs at VIU.

The university specializes in the international, down to the double degree that students graduate with — an MBA from VIU and a masters of science and international business from the University of Hertfordshire in the U.K.

When VIU students want to work internationally, a degree from the U.K. can look good on the CV, Dykeman explains.

The program focuses on international business throughout, but "some people just like the idea of having two degrees," he says.

VIU students also get the chance to network with others from around the globe. The school has the highest percentage of international students of any MBA program in Canada, Dykeman says.

"We're very diverse," he says. "I think the business world is just becoming more and more global as time goes on, so students really need to learn about how to deal with people from other cultures and other conditions.

"The program prepares them to work in a multicultural workforce and at an international company."

Because VIU is a small university, students also get a lot of contact with the faculty, most of whom have international experience. But the Nanaimo-based school has local appeal as well as international, with an "outdoorsy West Coast" character, he says.

For more, visit viu.ca/mba.

– Stephanie Orford

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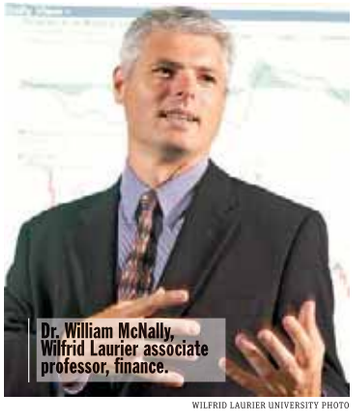

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY PHOTO

One of the great benefits of a Wilfrid Laurier MBA is flexibility; it's the MBA that fits into your life. The Laurier MBA degree is offered in six formats, allowing you the ability to choose the one that best suits your schedule and your needs.

You can choose a part-time program on alternate weekends at the downtown Toronto campus, or choose a full-time or part-time degree at the Laurier campus in Waterloo. Most Laurier MBA programs begin with the integrated core curriculum. Developed by Laurier, it's comprised of eight courses that combine critical business skills and knowledge.

In addition, Laurier MBA candidates have the opportunity to achieve the MBA degree as well as one of two financial designations. You can do both the MBA and the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) program option or the MBA and Chartered Financial Analysis (CFA) designation.

Maria Tamblyn is the program leader of Toronto MBA programs and says, "A Laurier MBA will help you achieve personal and professional goals and you will stand out in the crowd as one of the best business leaders."

Every year, Laurier hosts a women's-only MBA alumni studio event, where a panel of female MBA graduates speak to young, new potential MBA candidates. Laurier's marketing manager, Erin Almeida, attended this year's event in Toronto and says, "Graduate students today have many options for MBA schools. Laurier's MBA Studio event was an excellent opportunity for potential students to engage with successful alumni and the faculty members who would act as their future mentors."

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Queen's MBA

Richard Ross, former chairman and CEO of Inmet Mining Corporation and the head of Schulich School of Business's new MBA program in mining.

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PHOTO

YORK TO INTRODUCE NEW DEGREE SPECIALIZING IN MINING

As the financial capital of the mining world, it makes sense that Toronto would pioneer the country's first ever MBA program in mining.

York University's Schulich School of Business will roll out Canada's first MBA mining specialization this September, as the mining industry enjoys unparalleled growth and the accompanying threat of a major labour shortage.

"Graduates of this new MBA mining specialization will see incredible opportunities in the global mining sector due to the looming shortage of workers in the industry," says Richard Ross, former chairman and CEO of Inmet Mining Corporation and the head of Schulich's new program.

"If the mining industry is going to continue to grow and to manage the many challenges that lie ahead, it will need the sort of future business leaders that Schulich aims to develop."

Greater demands on the mining sector, thanks to the complexity of social, environmental and political climates, mean mining is facing a very challenging time in its history, says Ross.

As mining's financial centre, the Toronto Stock Exchange is home to 58 per cent of the world's mining companies and about 80 per cent of the sector's equity financing.

Schulich's specialization in Global Mining Management will include courses on finance, how companies manage social, environmental and economic impacts and the growth of mining companies. Students will be required to complete a real-world strategic mining project while at a mining company and will graduate with a good grasp of industry-specific topics, as well as effective leadership and management abilities.

Tuition fees for the two-year program are $55,000 for Canadian students and $60,000 for international students.

Schulich's newest MBA specialization joins a growing number of industry-sector specializations, including financial services, real estate and infrastructure, health industry management, and arts and media management.

NEW CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

To augment the new MBA program in mining, York University will open a Centre of Excellence in Global Mining Management at the Schulich School of Business in 2013.

It will conduct cutting-edge research, provide scholarships to students from key mining regions around the world, and create a forum for industry stakeholders to share mining business expertise.

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LEARNING HOW TO INNOVATE

QUEEN'S PLACES EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING AND REFINING IDEAS

Placing less emphasis on annoying corporate tasks such as meetings and emails is one way Queen's School of Business (QSB) hopes to crank out the best and brightest business leaders of tomorrow.

And while your BlackBerry may keep you on task, learning how to innovate is what will truly propel you forward in the world of business.

"Email, many of our meetings and tasks, isn't what gets the customer excited," says Barry Cross, an adjunct professor and innovation expert at QSB in Kingston, Ont. "When we dial down those activities, we find the team has more time to innovate. From there, we help students with how to develop and refine ideas, and especially how to launch them."

Innovation is a big buzzword in business these days. But companies are playing catch-up today, explains Cross, as many retreated from exploring innovation during the recent economic downturn. QSB highlights that often overlooked creative business skill in such graduate courses as Managing New Ventures and Project Leadership and Execution.

"Innovation is a key part of the overall package today's business students need access to — that's the big reason we teach it," says Cross.

"Managing today's customers isn't enough — we need to be thinking about how to look after tomorrow's customers as well."

SPARK SUMMIT

MBA students at Queen's School of Business are gathering their top minds March 9-10 to challenge thinking and develop innovative leaders. The 2012 Spark Innovation Summit in Kingston, Ont., will explore how to spark innovation and create change. Visit qsbis.com or follow the innovation conversation on Twitter: @qsbis.

While teaching innovation might seem tricky, courses depend heavily on case studies from the real world. Students, for example, might study the events that unfolded when RIM announced the introduction of its ill-fated PlayBook or those that led to Kodak's recent bankruptcy announcement.

When teaching innovation, it's important to get students thinking differently, says Cross. He likes to ask his students, many of whom come from the business world, "If your company didn't exist tomorrow, would your customers notice?"

Not surprisingly, that gets their wheels spinning.

Queen's School of Business has earned international recognition for its innovative approaches to business education, and has been a pioneer in the areas of team-based and experiential learning.

DEGROOTE OFFERS TRIPLE THREAT

GRADS CAN ENTER WORKPLACE WITH DEGREE, MBA AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Earning valuable work experience and cool, hard cash are two reasons why MBA degree hopefuls look to the DeGroote School of Business in Hamilton.

The DeGroote Co-op MBA combines academic study with hands-on work experience, which makes it the most popular MBA program at the school. Unlike other MBA programs, not having to put your career on hold is a big plus, as is the fact that students have the opportunity to pay down the $30,000-plus cost of their degree.

That students are entering the workplace with an undergraduate degree, an MBA and a year of work experience makes them a triple threat from a job marketing standpoint, says Steve Walker, an MBA recruiter at DeGroote.

"That is a very powerful combination that employers are certainly looking for," he says. "It is a testament to DeGroote's program that our employment numbers and the return on investment numbers are always so high year after year."

Last year, 83 per cent of co-op graduates at the McMaster University business school were employed six months after completing the co-op program.

The co-op, which takes 28 months to complete, is especially popular with younger students because unlike other MBA programs no work experience is required for admittance.

Established in 1973, this graduate degree is Canada's oldest co-op MBA. Given its lengthy history, the program offers a strong employer network that includes a who's who of leading companies and organizations such as ING Direct, Ford Canada and St. Michael's Hospital.

Co-op students receive intensive career development assistance through DeGroote's Centre for Business Career Development (CBCD). One-on-one coaching and skills development programs prepare students for high-level co-op positions and career success when they graduate.

In addition to the co-op stream, DeGroote also offers a traditional two-year MBA, an eight-month accelerated MBA and a self-directed part-time MBA.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

REALIZING HER DREAM

DeGroote MBA graduate Anne Connelly is realizing her dream of saving lives in the developing world. Hired as a field administrator by Doctors Without Borders, Connelly draws on her global business skills and life sciences background to assist with a project aimed at reducing pediatric malaria and malnutrition in central Africa.

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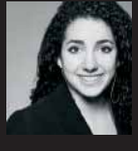

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Hidden gems in the health field

Pursuing a career in health? You may have more professional options available to you than you know

JULIA WEST
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MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

As with most areas of study, health care has its hidden and overlooked diamonds of opportunity. Your choices aren't simply doctor or nurse: there are plenty of less-common careers in the industry that allow you to help patients in a variety of ways. Here are three paths you may not have considered

Physical therapists

Physical therapists spend extensive time working with patients, creating a bond and designing programs and rehabilitation exercises. Many of these patients are athletes.

"We see athletes enter with concussions, unknown pain or decreases in production or post-op status," says Chris Keating of Strive Physical Therapy. They create personalized recovery plans, similar to the way a teacher formats a curriculum.

Holistic health care

One largely expanding field is that of holistic healing. CAM — an acronym for Complementary and Alternative Medicine — involves sophisticated practices that include acupuncture and acupressure along with massage therapy. More schools are offering courses in this study, and more Americans are seeking medical attention in alternative forms: A National Health Interview Survey found that 38 per cent of adults questioned use a form of alternative or holistic medicine.

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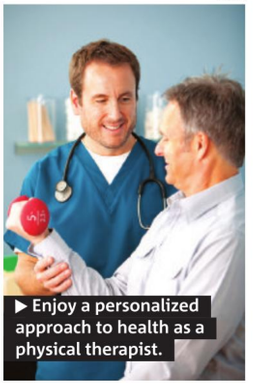

▶ Enjoy a personalized approach to health as a physical therapist.

Occupational therapists

Occupational therapists assist the elderly and those who have suffered an illness or injury in relearning everyday skills. It's a flexible job that offers a variety of positions within the system.

"Occupational therapy allows for many jobs in the same career," explains occupational therapist Jeremy R. Furniss, VP of Operations at Ergo Solutions. "You find OTs in medical care and hospitals, work sites such as factories or offices, schools and just about anywhere else these days."

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Finding the key to co-op

Yoko Lu has changed her focus from geography to environmental science. Lessons learned from her mistakes

STUDENT VOICE

YOKO LU
TALENTEGG.CA

When I first started at Simon Fraser University, I was happy that my school had a co-op program and I had heard that many students had positive co-op experiences.

However, as time gradually passed and I finally enrolled successfully into the co-op program last March, I realized that I could not find any relevant jobs because of my major: geography.

As I searched through the list of co-op jobs, I figured out that many science co-op jobs were related to environmental science. I realized that I was following the wrong path.

I immediately talked to my advisor and switched my major from geography with an environmental specialty to physical geography, and then to environmental science.

A few months passed and I finally had two interviews last August. I did not expect to receive a placement, so I was shocked when I got a phone call from the co-op advisor, telling me I had an offer.

▶ Yoko Lu has changed her focus from geography to environmental science.

"Do not be disappointed even when you do not get the job. You should evaluate any mistakes you have made and correct them."
YOKO LU

I was lucky to get a job in my co-op program because I got accepted into the program very late.

My key suggestion to students is not to give up. I kept applying to the job offers even though the job descriptions were not really in my area of study. I would recommend students keep applying even though you may feel uncomfortable with the job or its description.

If you are invited to interviews, you have to keep in mind that the employers receive lots of applications and can only choose a few students to interview and only one will get an offer.

Do not be disappointed even when you do not get the job. You should evaluate any mistakes you have made and correct them.

To help with this process, I believe that schools should have more courses on real world experiences, such as writing resumés and cover letters, and preparing for interviews.

Workshops are not enough. I think there should be regular courses where students can be taught more efficiently and perhaps students would be able to apply to jobs after their resumés and cover letters are carefully checked by their peers. Co-op jobs do not have to be run by the school, it could also be a direct contact made with the employer by students.

Where Yoko is now

I am currently a co-op student as a research project assistant and I am volunteering at various positions during the weekends, and am still willing to take on new experiences.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Lessons learned

Key take-aways from Yoko's experience:

- Browse job listings to see which skills, experiences and education are in demand.
- Changing your major early on isn't failing — it's OK to change your mind.
- Don't get discouraged! Competition is fierce in many fields and it might take some time to get a job.

Charity workers get $200K helping hand

Nearly 50 Canadian charities, each with a limited ability to support the development of their staff and volunteers, have received a much-needed boost to the combined tune of $200,000.

The Pricewaterhouse Coopers Canada Foundation Leadership Grants Program has presented the annual grants to registered small- and medium-sized charities, with a focus on funding professional development activities for the selected applicants.

"There are limited funds available for the professional development of dedicated employees at Canadian charities and funders have traditionally steered away from providing support for core operational activities," says James Temple, Leader of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Canada Foundation.

Temple adds that learning and development play critical roles in the ongoing success of a charity's social mission. "Funders can address this gap by providing the right balance of resources to empower people to hone their skills and by investing in the long-term sustainability of the charitable community."

Since the program launched in 2006, the program has awarded more than $1,000,000 to over 400 recipients.

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4 sports

Quoted

"We think Miguel will be adequate at third base from a defensive perspective. I don't mean to say he's going to be a Gold Glover."

DETROIT TIGERS GM DAVE DOMBROWSKI ON THE TEAM'S EXPECTATIONS FOR MIGUEL CABRERA, ABOVE, AT THIRD BASE, WHERE HE IS SET TO MOVE NEXT SEASON TO MAKE ROOM FOR PRINCE FIELDER AT FIRST.

Jets cool down red-hot Leafs

Loss means Toronto fails to gain any ground in tight playoff race

JETS	LEAFS
2	1

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Winnipeg's Chris Thorburn puts the puck past Jonas Gustavsson.

Bryan Little scored the winning goal and the Winnipeg Jets ended the Toronto Maple Leafs' winning ways with a 2-1 victory Tuesday.

Winnipeg (25-24-6) now has 56 points, winning their first home game after a 2-4 road trip. Home-ice advantage has been one of the few consistent weapons the Jets have found this season.

Toronto (28-20-6) failed to gain any ground in the Eastern Conference playoff race. The Maple Leafs currently hold seventh place in the conference, one point ahead of Ottawa. Toronto had won three games in a row and lost only one in its previous six coming into Winnipeg.

Chris Thorburn also scored for the Jets.

Phil Kessel replied for the Maple Leafs.

Kessel opened the scoring when he coasted smoothly around Winnipeg defenceman Tobias Enstrom to slip his 30th of the season past Ondrej Pavelec at 11:06 of the first period.

Winnipeg replied from an unlikely source as Thorburn scored only his second of the season at 14:16. The low-scoring Thorburn looked like a sniper as he dipped and flipped a solid backhander past Toronto netminder Jonas Gustavsson.

The Jets went ahead for good at 9:47 of the second period. Gustavsson managed a great save to keep Blake Wheeler from scoring his 11th goal of the season but Little slammed in the rebound to give Wheeler a team-leading 26 assists.

Pavelec made 17 saves for the Jets, while Gustavsson stopped 27 shots for the Leafs.

It was a fast and relatively clean game except for an unenthusiastic fight between Winnipeg's Johnny Oduya and Toronto's Joey Crabb early in the third.

Winnipeg and Toronto both failed to score on two power-play opportunities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Williams ends NFL career, again

Ricky Williams is retiring from the NFL.

Again.

This time, however, it appears to be for good.

The 34-year-old Williams told the Baltimore Ravens on Tuesday he won't be back to fulfil the second year of a contract he signed in August. Playing as a backup to Ray Rice this year, Williams ran for 444 yards and scored two touchdowns.

He also became the 26th player in NFL history to reach 10,000 yards rushing, reaching the plateau in the season finale at Cincinnati.

"The NFL has been an amazing page in this chapter of my life," Williams said. "I pray that all successive adventures offer me the same potential for growth, success and most importantly, fun. ... As for what's next, I am excited about all the opportunities ahead — continuing my education, running The Ricky Williams Foundation and whatever other opportunities present themselves."

Williams retired previously before the 2004 season when facing a four-game suspension for violating the league's drug policy. He returned in 2005, then left to spend the 2006 season with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in pictures

PHOTOS
1. SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES FILE
2. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
3. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

1 Clippers guard Chauncey Billups will miss the rest of the season after tearing his left Achilles tendon in Los Angeles' win over the Orlando Magic on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Former San Jose Sharks captain Owen Nolan announced his retirement Tuesday after 18 NHL seasons. Nolan played for Quebec/Colorado, Toronto, Phoenix, Calgary, Minnesota and San Jose, scoring 422 goals and 463 assists in 1,200 NHL games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame unveiled its Class of 2012 on Tuesday. Rusty Staub, pictured, Doug Melvin, Rheal Cormier and the 2011 Canadian senior national team will be inducted this June. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors wary of home comforts

Coach urges professionalism for two-week T.O. stint

Of all the things Dwane Casey demands of the Toronto Raptors, an aura of professionalism is perhaps the most important.

He wants them to be businesslike in their approach, to prepare and commit to act as true professionals, to make the job and all it entails a priority.

The Raptors are home for seven games over a span of more than two weeks, an eternity in this NBA season, and Casey wants to make sure the players handle themselves accordingly.

"It's good to be at home (but) we have to make sure we take care of it and stay focused," he said. "Sometimes, you get caught up in tickets and family or whatever it is, being home so long. We have to make sure we treat it in a professional way and take care of home."

"I think you can be at home too much; I wish it was more balanced. But I wish we had a lot of things, but we don't."
RAPTORS COACH DWANE CASEY

A professional way would be to shut out the inevitable distractions for at least the amount of time Casey needs the Raptors to solely concentrate on basketball.

The most important aspect of being home for so long for Casey is that his team and his staff can get extensive practice time in.

With only one back-to-back in the next seven games, and an entirely unexpected four-days-off between Games 6 and 7, Casey is likely to have six or seven full practice days.

The only other Raptor seven-game homestand was in 1999-2000 and that group, led by a second-year Vince Carter, went 4-3.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TORONTO MARLIES

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	51	33	13	1	4	141	103	71	16-6-0-2	17-7-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1
d-Boston	51	33	16	1	1	180	111	68	17-9-1-1	16-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
d-Washington	53	28	21	2	2	149	149	60	19-7-0-1	9-14-2-1	4-4-2-0	W1
Philadelphia	53	30	16	2	5	173	157	67	12-8-1-4	18-8-1-1	4-3-0-3	L3
New Jersey	53	31	19	1	2	150	148	65	15-9-0-2	16-10-1-0	7-2-0-1	W5
Pittsburgh	54	30	19	2	3	163	141	65	15-7-2-0	15-12-0-3	7-2-0-1	L2
Toronto	53	28	19	3	3	167	155	62	16-8-2-2	12-11-1-1	6-3-0-1	W3
Ottawa	56	27	22	5	2	162	174	61	14-11-1-1	13-11-4-1	2-7-1-0	L7
Florida	52	24	17	5	6	131	149	59	13-5-1-6	11-12-4-0	3-4-1-2	L2
Winnipeg	54	24	24	3	3	129	150	54	15-8-0-2	9-16-3-1	4-5-0-1	L2
NY Islanders	52	22	22	5	3	126	150	52	11-11-5-0	11-11-1-2	6-2-1-1	W1
Tampa Bay	52	23	24	2	3	148	176	51	15-8-1-1	8-16-1-2	6-3-1-0	L1
Montreal	54	21	24	2	7	140	147	51	11-11-2-5	10-13-0-2	5-4-0-1	W2
Buffalo	52	22	24	3	3	126	154	50	11-9-3-3	11-15-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Carolina	54	20	25	5	4	137	165	49	14-12-0-3	6-13-5-1	6-2-1-1	W2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	54	35	17	1	1	172	129	72	20-2-1-0	15-15-0-1	7-2-0-1	L2
d-Vancouver	52	32	15	0	5	167	130	69	15-6-0-4	17-9-0-1	6-2-0-2	W1
d-San Jose	50	29	15	3	3	145	117	64	17-8-2-0	12-7-1-3	5-4-0-1	L1
St. Louis	52	31	14	1	6	129	106	69	22-3-1-3	9-11-0-3	6-2-1-1	W1
Nashville	53	32	17	3	1	149	136	68	17-7-2-1	15-10-1-0	8-2-0-0	W1
Chicago	53	29	17	4	3	169	158	65	19-6-1-3	10-11-3-0	4-4-2-0	L5
Los Angeles	54	26	18	4	6	118	117	62	15-11-0-4	11-7-4-2	5-3-1-1	W1
Minnesota	53	25	20	2	6	122	136	58	13-7-1-2	12-13-1-4	3-5-0-2	L2
Dallas	51	27	22	0	2	136	144	56	15-9-0-2	12-13-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Phoenix	53	24	21	3	5	139	142	56	12-10-2-2	12-11-1-3	4-4-0-2	W2
Calgary	53	24	22	3	4	126	144	55	14-8-1-1	10-14-2-3	5-3-0-2	L1
Colorado	54	26	25	2	1	135	151	55	14-13-0-1	12-12-2-0	3-5-1-1	L5
Anaheim	52	20	24	4	4	135	156	48	14-13-2-0	6-11-2-4	7-2-1-0	W1
Edmonton	53	21	27	1	4	141	158	47	15-8-1-2	6-19-0-2	5-4-0-1	L1
Columbus	53	15	32	1	5	123	175	35	9-13-1-2	6-19-0-3	3-6-0-1	W2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Montreal 3 Pittsburgh 2 (SO)
St. Louis 3 Ottawa 1
Columbus 3 Minnesota 1
Los Angeles 3 Tampa Bay 1
New Jersey 1 N.Y. Rangers 0
N.Y. Islanders 1 Philadelphia 0 (SO)
Washington 4 Florida 0
Vancouver at Nashville
Toronto at Winnipeg
Phoenix at Dallas
Chicago at Colorado
Monday's results
Toronto 6 Edmonton 3
Anaheim 3 Calgary 2 (SO)
Phoenix 3 Detroit 1
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Boston at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
St. Louis at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Friday's games
Dallas at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Chicago at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

CANADIENS 3, PENGUINS 2 (SO)

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Second Period
1. Montreal, Leblanc 3 (Kostitsyn, Campoli) 11:21
Penalties — Eller Mtl (goaltender interference) 2:33, Plekanec Mtl (slashing) 7:19, Neal Pgh (cross-checking) 13:17, Gomez Mtl (holding) 15:24, Adams Pgh (tripping) 20:00.
Third Period
2. Pittsburgh, Dupuis 12 (Vitale) 1:03 (sh)
3. Montreal, Eller 11 (Emelin) 3:00
4. Pittsburgh, Neal 28 (Malkin, Martin) 7:32
Penalty — Neal Pgh (high-sticking) 15:18.
Overtime
No Scoring.
Penalties — Malkin Pgh (roughing), Darche Mtl (interference) 5:00.
Shootout
Montreal wins 3-2
Montreal (3) — Bourque, goal; Pacioretty, miss; Desharnais, miss; Cole, miss; Eller, goal; Leblanc, miss; Kostitsyn, miss; Plekanec, goal;
Pittsburgh (2) — Letang, miss; Malkin, goal; Neal, miss; O'Reilly, miss; Kunitz, goal; Sullivan, miss; Dupuis, miss; Williams, miss;.
Shots

Pittsburgh	11	11	9	3—34
Montreal	10	14	3	3—30

Goal — Pittsburgh: Fleury (SOL,28-13-2). Montreal: Price (W,18-19-8).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Pittsburgh: 0-3; Montreal: 0-3.
Referees — Marc Joanette, Dennis LaRue.
Linesmen — Michel Cormier, Scott Cherrey.
Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SOCCER

AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

SEMIFINALS
Today's games
All Times Eastern
At Bata, Equatorial Guinea
Zambia vs. Ghana, 11 a.m.
At Libreville, Gabon
Mali vs. Ivory Coast, 2 p.m.

THIRD PLACE
Saturday's game
At Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Semifinal Losers, 2 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday's game
At Libreville, Gabon
Semifinal Winners, 2 p.m.

ENGLAND

FA CUP
FOURTH ROUND — REPLAY
Yesterday's results
Sheffield Wednesday 0 Blackpool 3
Southampton 2 Millwall 3

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Celtic	24	19	2	3	48	16	59
Rangers	25	18	4	3	47	14	58
Motherwell	23	11	5	7	28	28	38
Hearts	24	10	5	9	30	18	35
St. Johnstone	24	10	5	9	32	27	35
Aberdeen	25	7	8	10	27	30	29
Kilmarnock	24	6	10	8	28	35	28
Dundee United	24	6	9	9	33	38	27
St. Mirren	25	6	9	10	25	36	27
Inverness	24	7	5	12	30	40	26
Dunfermline	24	4	6	14	26	51	18
Hibernian	24	4	6	14	24	45	18

Yesterday's result
Dunfermline 1 Kilmarnock 1

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY
SEMIFINALS — SECOND LEG
Athletic Bilbao 6 Mirandes 2
(Athletic Bilbao advances on 8-3 aggregate)

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP
QUARTER-FINALS
Yesterday's result
Holstein Kiel 0 Borussia Dortmund 4
Today's games
Hoffenheim vs. Greuther Fuerth
Hertha Berlin vs. Borussia Moenchengladbach
Stuttgart vs. Bayern Munich

FRANCE

COUPE DE FRANCE
ROUND OF 16
Yesterday's results
Rennes 3 Evian 2
Quevilly vs. Orleans (ppd., frozen pitch)
Dijon vs. Paris Saint-Germain (ppd., frozen pitch)
Today's games
Bourg-Peronnas vs. Marseille (ppd., frozen pitch)
Valenciennes vs. Lille
Chateauroux vs. Montpellier
Gazelec Ajaccio vs. Drancy
Lyon vs. Bordeaux

TENNIS

WTA OPEN GAZ DE FRANCE SUEZ
At Paris
Singles — First Round
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Li Na (3), China, 7-6 (5), 3-2, retired.
Julia Goerges (6), Germany, def. Shahar Peer, Israel, 6-1, 6-3.
Angelique Kerber (9), Germany, def. Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (3).
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.
Petra Cetkovska, Czech Republic, def. Alberta Brianti, Italy, 6-3, 6-3.
Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, def. Polona Hercog, Slovenia, 6-2, 6-2.
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Greta Arn, Hungary, 6-4, 6-4.
Doubles — First Round
Jill Craybas, U.S., and Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, def. Natalie Grandin, South Africa, and Vladimira Uhlirova (2), Czech Republic, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 10-6 (tiebreak).
Monica Niculescu, Romania, and Alicja Rosolska (4), Poland, def. Eva Hrdinova and Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 5-7, 10-6 (tiebreak).
Julie Coin and Pauline Parmentier, France, def. Liga Dekmeijere, Latvia, and Sandra Klemenschits, Austria, 1-6, 7-5, 10-6 (tiebreak).
Alberta Brianti, Italy, and Alize Cornet, France, def. Nina Bratchikova, Russia, and Darija Jurak, Croatia, 7-5, 6-2.

WTA PTT PATTAYA WOMEN'S OPEN
At Pattaya, Thailand
Singles — First Round
Vera Zvonareva (1), Russia, def. Varatchaya Wongteanchai, Thailand, 6-2, 7-5.
Anne Keothavong, Britain, def. Dominika Cibulkova (2), Slovakia, 6-4, 6-1.
Daniela Hantuchova (3), Slovakia, def. Nugnadda Wannasuk, Thailand, 6-2, 6-0.
Maria Kirilenko (4), Russia, def. Casey Dellacqua, Australia, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Zheng Jie (5), China, 6-3, 6-2.
Tamarine Tanasugarn, Thailand, def. Galina Voskoboeva (6), Kazakhstan, 6-3, 4-2 (retired).
Vania King (8), U.S., def. Heather Watson, Britain, 6-4, 6-2.
Chang Kai-chen, Taiwan, def. Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, 7-5, 6-1.
Misaki Doi, Japan, def. Noppawon Lertcheewakarn, Thailand, 6-1, 6-3.
Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, def. Zhou Yi-Miao, China, 6-1, 7-5.
Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, def. Nicha Lertpitaksinchai, Thailand, 6-1, 6-1.
Akgul Amanmuradova, Uzbekistan, def. Laura Robson, Britain, 5-2 (retired).
Sania Mirza, India, def. Ayumi Morita, Japan, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.
Urszula Radwanska, Poland, def. Anastasia Pivovarova, Russia, 6-4, 6-1.

NCAA BASKETBALL

AP MEN'S TOP 25
Last night's results
No. 1 Kentucky vs. **No. 8** Florida
No. 3 Ohio State vs. Purdue
No. 17 Creighton at Evansville
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
No. 2 Syracuse vs. **No. 12** Georgetown, 7 p.m.
No. 5 North Carolina vs. **No. 10** Duke, 9 p.m.
No. 6 Baylor vs. **No. 7** Kansas, 7 p.m.
No. 11 Michigan State vs. Penn State, 6:30 p.m.
No. 15 Florida State at Boston College, 7 p.m.
No. 19 Virginia vs. Wake Forest, 7:30 p.m.
No. 22 Michigan at Nebraska, 8:30 p.m.

NFL

2012 DRAFT ORDER

FIRST ROUND
x-subject to coin flip

	W	L	Pct.	Opponents W	Opponents L	Opponents Pct.
1. Indianapolis	2	14	.125	138	118	.539
2. St. Louis	2	14	.125	151	105	.590
3. Minnesota	3	13	.188	143	113	.559
4. Cleveland	4	12	.250	136	120	.531
5. Tampa Bay	4	12	.250	141	115	.551
6. Washington	5	11	.313	122	134	.477
7. Jacksonville	5	11	.313	128	128	.500
8. x-Carolina	6	10	.375	129	127	.504
9. x-Miami	6	10	.375	129	127	.504
10. Buffalo	6	10	.375	133	123	.520
11. x-Kansas City	7	9	.438	131	125	.512
12. x-Seattle	7	9	.438	131	125	.512
13. Arizona	8	8	.500	120	136	.469
14. Dallas	8	8	.500	121	135	.473
15. Philadelphia	8	8	.500	125	131	.488
16. N.Y. Jets	8	8	.500	128	128	.500
17. Oakland	8	8	.500	129	127	.504
18. San Diego	8	8	.500	132	124	.516
19. Chicago	8	8	.500	135	121	.527
20. Tennessee	9	7	.563	118	138	.461
21. Cincinnati	9	7	.563	126	130	.492
22. Atlanta	10	6	.625	123	133	.480
23. Detroit	10	6	.625	137	119	.535
24. Pittsburgh	12	4	.750	126	130	.492
25. Denver	8	8	.500	133	123	.520
26. Houston	10	6	.625	116	140	.453
27. New Orleans	13	3	.813	113	143	.441
28. Green Bay	15	1	.938	117	139	.457
29. Baltimore	12	4	.750	122	134	.477
30. San Francisco	13	3	.813	115	141	.449
31. New England	13	3	.813	115	141	.449
32. N.Y. Giants	9	7	.563	133	123	.520

CURLING

CANADIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
At Napanee, Ont.

MEN
Yesterday's results
DRAW 10
Alberta 4 Newfoundland & Labrador 3
Northwest Territories 4 B.C. 3
Ontario 5 P.E.I. 4
Quebec 7 Northern Ontario 3
DRAW 11
Manitoba 8 New Brunswick 7
Northern Ontario 6 Saskatchewan 4
Nova Scotia 9 Northwest Territories 2
Yukon Territories 7 P.E.I. 4
DRAW 12
Ontario vs. New Brunswick
Nova Scotia vs. Quebec
Newfoundland & Labrador vs. B.C.
Manitoba vs. Alberta

WOMEN
Yesterday's results
DRAW 10
Alberta 10 Newfoundland & Labrador 9 (extra end)
B.C. 9 Northwest Territories 3
Northern Ontario 7 Quebec 6
P.E.I. 11 Ontario 6
DRAW 11
New Brunswick 6 Manitoba 4
Northwest Territories 10 Nova Scotia 9
Saskatchewan 4 Northern Ontario 3
Yukon Territories 9 P.E.I. 5
DRAW 12
Ontario vs. New Brunswick
Nova Scotia vs. Quebec
Newfoundland & Labrador vs. B.C.
Manitoba vs. Alberta

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	21	6	.778	—
d-Miami	19	6	.760	1
d-Philadelphia	18	7	.720	2
Indiana	17	7	.708	2½
Atlanta	16	9	.640	4
Orlando	15	10	.600	5
Boston	14	10	.583	5½
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	9½
New York	10	15	.400	10
Cleveland	9	14	.391	10
New Jersey	8	18	.308	12½
Toronto	8	18	.308	12½
Detroit	6	20	.231	14½
Washington	5	20	.200	15
Charlotte	3	22	.120	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	19	5	.792	—
d-L.A. Clippers	15	7	.682	3
d-San Antonio	17	9	.654	3
Denver	15	10	.600	4½
L.A. Lakers	14	11	.560	5½
Houston	14	11	.560	5½
Dallas	14	11	.560	5½
Portland	14	11	.560	5½
Utah	13	11	.542	6
Minnesota	12	12	.500	7
Memphis	12	13	.480	7½
Phoenix	11	14	.440	8½
Golden State	8	13	.381	9½
Sacramento	9	15	.375	10
New Orleans	4	21	.160	15½

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
Indiana 104 Utah 99
Boston 94 Charlotte 84
Miami 107 Cleveland 91
Phoenix 107 Milwaukee 105
Sacramento at Minnesota
Oklahoma City at Golden State
Monday's results
L.A. Clippers 107 Orlando 102 (OT)
Washington 111 Toronto 108 (OT)
Philadelphia 95 L.A. Lakers 90
Phoenix 99 Atlanta 90
Chicago 108 New Jersey 87
New York 99 Utah 88
Sacramento 100 New Orleans 92
San Antonio 89 Memphis 84
Houston 99 Denver 90
Oklahoma City 111 Portland 107 (OT)
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.

NLL

WEEK SIX
All Times Eastern
Friday's games
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at Washington, 11 p.m.
Sunday's games
Rochester at Minnesota, 3 p.m.
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.

TORONTO MARLIES PRO HOCKEY
WEEKEND MATCH-UP
FRI. FEB 10TH @ 7:00 PM
VERSUS SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE
SAT. FEB 11TH @ 3:00 PM
VERSUS HAMILTON BULLDOGS
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EVERY GAME IS A TRY OUT
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Out with the V-8

What will likely go unnoticed is the lack of a V-8 option, leaving the GS 350 and the gasoline-electric hybrid GS 450h as the only models. The V-8 GS 460 cost an additional $11,400 over and above the GS 350 when it last appeared in Canada for the 2010 model year and was never a big seller. Its relatively poor fuel economy also didn't help. Replacing the GS 460 is the V-6 F Sport that has its own front clip, mesh grille, body trim, 19-inch wheels and variable suspension and steering systems that continuously adjust to road conditions and driver inputs.

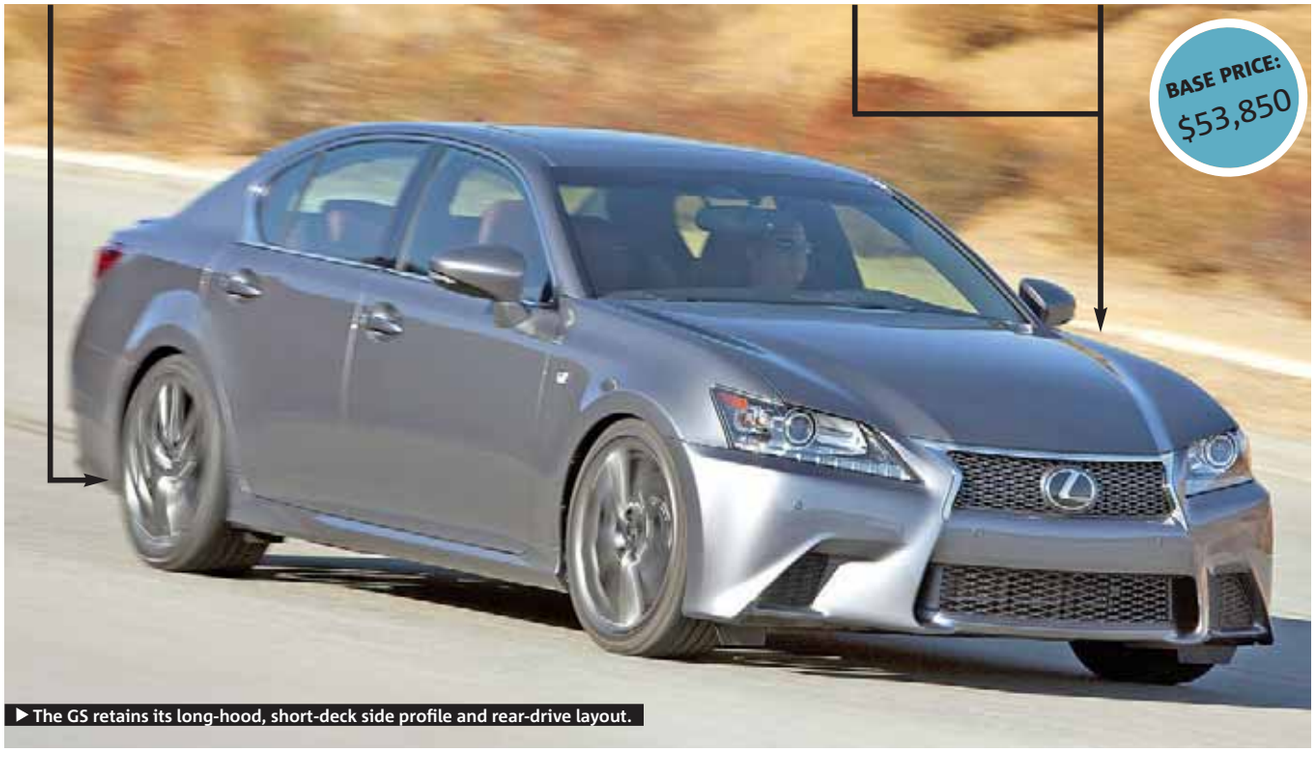
In with the V-6

It might have a V-6, but the GS 350 is hardly slow. It can scoot to 100 km/h from zero in a Lexus-reported 6.3 seconds, which is a tick more than the second-generation GS 450h that arrives later in the 2012 model year. That model should be the undisputed hot rod in the bunch. What V-8?

The V-6 has been updated with direct fuel injection whereby gas is more accurately metered directly into the combustion chambers.

Transmission

The F Sport uses the same carryover 306-horsepower 3.5-litre V-6 as the standard GS 350. It's connected to a six-speed automatic transmission that "blips" the throttle for smoother downshifts (called rev matching). Compared to the GS 350, the F Sport adds a level to the standard driver-selectable operating mode that firms up the suspension and sharpens the steering.



▶ The GS retains its long-hood, short-deck side profile and rear-drive layout.

GS still living in the fast lane

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Wooing and winning over significant numbers of upscale-car buyers has been a successful venture for Toyota's premium brand and the latest GS series should literally accelerate this trend despite being down a couple of cylinders.

Why? Well, for one thing the 2013 GS, which is slated for a February debut, is leading Lexus out of the design doldrums where, along with many of its stable mates, the car has been.

Nothing overly radical mind you, since the 2013 GS shares a number of physical and mechanical components with its 2012 counterpart, but at both ends the revisions are obvious. The reshaped nosepiece displays a large air intake below the grille with additional side intakes that also serve as fog-light housings. The confluence of shapes and angles at the business end might not rank as an artistic tour de force, but it's certainly character building and that will help you spot the GS in a parking lot.

The starting-point GS 350 rings in at stout $54,000, including destination costs, which is about the same as the outgoing model, while the F Sport will likely sticker in the vicinity of $61,500.

The hybrid is estimated in the mid-$70,000 range to start.

That's a lot of cabbage, but this is still life in the fast lane with the GS well within sight of other luxury competitors and their six-cylinder offerings.

▶ A side view of the GS 350.

▶ The F Sport interior features some very business-like hard-metal surfaces that look elegant and expensive.

2013 Lexus GS

What you should know about the 2013 Lexus GS:

- **Types:** Four-door, rear-/all-wheel-drive luxury sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (306); 3.5-litre DOHC V6/electric motor (338, net).
- **Transmissions:** Six-speed automatic; continuously variable (GS 450h).
- **Market position:** As with its German counterparts, the GS is staking is future on V-6 engine development as it moves away from what was its bread-and-butter V-8. This should not be problematic as V-6 performance continues to increase.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.3/7.8 (RWD, est.).

5 drive

By comparison

Audi S4
Base price: $54,500
Sporty AWD four-door with supercharged 333-hp V-6 is quick to 100 km/h.

Hyundai Genesis
Base price: $41,800
For an extra $13,500, this sassy sedan can be had with a 429-horse V-8.

Infiniti M37
Base price: $54,350
Roomy rear- or all-wheel-drive sedan also offers 360-hp hybrid option.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

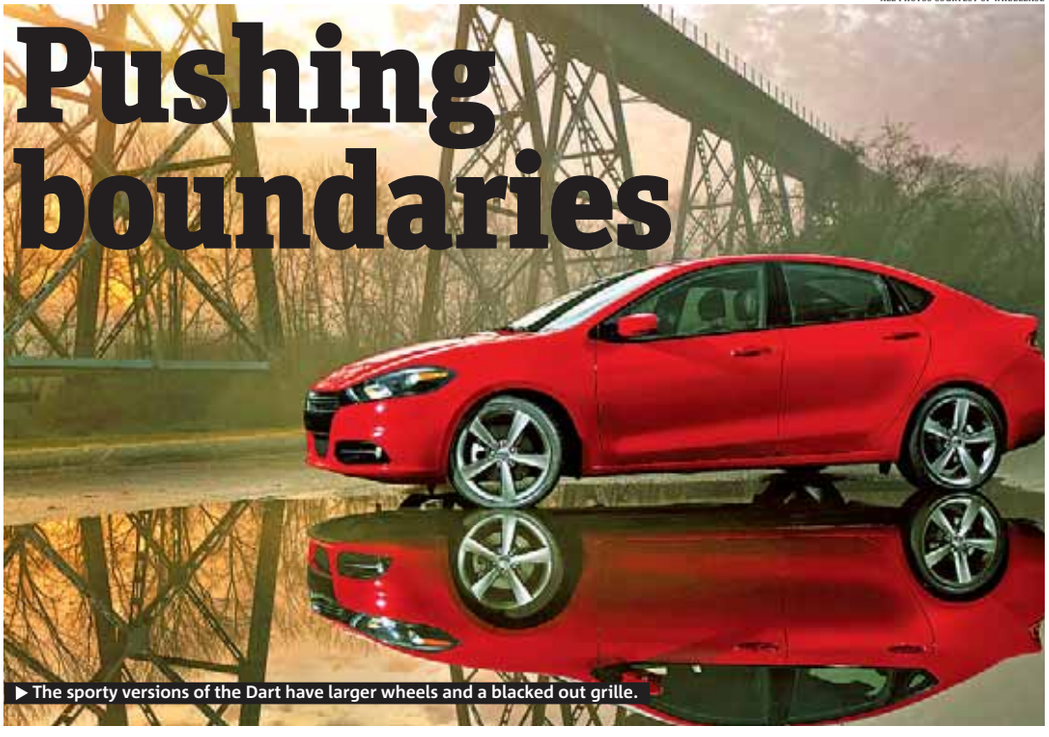
Scan code for more car reviews and news

It's a compact four-door, front-drive, four-cylinder Dodge sedan, that's largely Fiat, and has the historic Dart name ... what could possibly go wrong?

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELBASE

Pushing boundaries

▶ The Dart features superior cabin quality. A nice touch is the illuminated piping that wraps the perimeter of the controls.



▶ The sporty versions of the Dart have larger wheels and a blacked out grille.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

▶ The Alfa Romeo Giulietta platform, left, according to Dodge, was enlarged and strengthened for the new Dart. Buyers will get a choice of three four-cylinder engines.

It was only a matter of time before this kind of thing happened. Fiat said all along it was going to bring its platforms to North America to backstop the Chrysler and Dodge brands and here's the first one.

Let the lynching begin.

"Sorry but two words ... junk it ... it's not a Dodge Dart ..." writes someone on Dodge's own Facebook "fan" page.

"I think it is ugly and doesn't deserve the DART name!!" writes another seething soul on the Auto Shift Weekly Facebook page where a half dozen 2013 Dart photos are posted.

"I have a 1969 Dart (and) this is nothing like it in any way, shape or form."

OK, we get the picture.

The new Dart is not an old Dart and it doesn't look like an old Dart. Was it supposed to? Did someone at Dodge say it would? Or is that naturally assumed just because of the name?

Using an old name doesn't mean that the old car comes with it. History is littered with examples of badges put on cars that were never intended to pay homage to the original, so why the outrage?

To put it rather mildly, Dodge fanatics are, well, exactly that. And then some.

"Italian crap, please, burn it to the ground! Dodge will never be FIAT!" writes another "hater."

Many are still angered by the fact the current Charger has four doors and not two, even though the new car is light years ahead of the original in terms of performance and comfort.

It's ironic, really, that those same people are trashing the Dart as nothing more than a badge on a Fiat. You don't see them trashing the coveted Dodge Challenger because it's essentially a two-door version of the maligned Charger, do you? Far from it.

150

Dodge says there are seven wheel options, 12 colours and apparently more than 150 customization options and themed packages for the car. You're going to get your Dart your way.

So, if it's about the name and the number of doors, why wouldn't Dodge just call it something else in the first place, like Giulietta as the hatchback platform is known back in Italy?

Likely being sensitive to the Fiat-izing of the Dodge brand — which Fiat saved, by the way — what better way to keep the connection with Dodge than to saddle what is largely an Italian compact car with an all-American one-syllable name: Dart.

But, Dodge fans are terminally nostalgic and no amount of song and dance is going to convince them that the new Dart by Fiat is deserving of the Dart badge.

"We want nostalgia ... and not just by use of a 'name.'"

Nostalgia?

The naysayers have foggy memories of what the old Dart was actually about: it's appeal was as a four-door grocery-getter and by the mid-1970s it was a cheaply made one at that.

Of course, the romantics recall the sporty two-door models of the late 1960s and early 1970s that reached star status with their ability to take down cars with much larger engines.

In reality, they were a very small piece of the Dart pie. And the reality today is that Dodge needs a small car to sell as a competitor to the Ford Focus, Chevy Cruze and Hyundai Elantra, and not another rear-wheel-drive V-8 tire fryer like the Challenger SRT8 392.

And here it is. Available only as a front-wheel-drive sedan, 2013 Dart will be available with one of three four-cylinder engines, all of which are from Fiat, which is no problem since there are no other Dodge products to donate the powertrains.

The first is a 160-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder. Optional is the 1.4-litre turbocharged "Multiair" four-cylinder. This will be the best choice for fuel economy and all-around power. It's lifted from the Fiat 500 Abarth model.

Multiair is a term that describes the variable intake-valve timing. There is no camshaft to actuate the valves. Instead they are controlled hydraulically by electronics, which means the valve timing for each cylinder can be tailored cylinder to cylinder and depending on engine revs and load. At the top is a 184-horsepower four-cylinder 2.4-litre non-turbo Multiair.

If you spend enough time examining the car, you just can't dismiss it based on its name or the fact it's part Italian ... from an Italian company that happens to own Ferrari.

Perhaps this Facebook post sums it up.

"... it's all good for me, name and all. Who cares where its origins come from, a real good move on Chryco's part. I don't hear anyone complaining where the Cruze or the Fiesta actually comes from! I think they finally got this right ... time will tell."

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Tire wear: Why you should care

It's important to be aware of how your tires are changing and adjust your driving habits accordingly

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The most important safety items on your vehicle, above all others, are your tires. And that's especially important in winter, when they have to deal with a wide variety of surfaces, including snow, slush and ice.

Winter tires do a far better job than all-season tires, even on dry pavement: once the temperature drops below 7C, their more pliable rubber compound and aggressive tread do a better job of gripping the road.

I experienced the worst of winter driving at an event showcasing the new Michelin X-Ice Xi3 winter tire, which goes on sale next fall. I drove on several surfaces with brand-new Xi3 tires, but perhaps the most eye-opening was when the company sent me out on worn ones. As your tires wear, you need to be aware of how they're changing and adjust your driving habits if necessary.

▶ Tire tread tells the story.

Tire treads consist of "blocks," squares of rubber that bite into snow; grooves and channels that evacuate water; and sipes, tiny slits in the blocks that improve traction. As the tires wear, the blocks will become smooth and the channels will become shallower, making it harder for the tire to grip the surface and displace water.

This can potentially lead to a dangerous situation called hydroplaning, where the tire "floats" on top of puddles and slush, rather than pushing water aside so it can contact the asphalt.

The Xi3's special design helps to give it even tread wear as it ages, but many tires will wear unevenly, especially if they're running with the wrong air pressure. This will gradually affect how they handle.

PHOTOS BY JIL MCINTOSH/ FOR METRO

▶ Writer Jil McIntosh recently tested tires on an ice and snow course in Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci, Quebec, during a Michelin event.

On an ice and snow course, driving on four brands of tires all worn to the same degree, I quickly noticed the difference.

One had difficulty getting traction on an incline, while another had lost much of its lateral stability: on sharp curves, it tended to slip sideways.

Most importantly, while some were better than others, none of them stopped as quickly as a car with newer tires. No matter what type of tires or the season, you should be regularly analyzing how your car behaves. Any time you realize that your driving is overly compensating for your tires, it's time to have them checked, and if necessary, replaced.

Every time you leave your driveway, your safety, your family's safety, and that of other drivers starts with the condition of your tires.

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2011 CR-V LX 5SPD 4WD	P1015	Grey	26,354	$24,615
2008 Acura TL Type S 5SPD	P1019	Silver	84,976	$25,215
2010 Honda Civic Sedan DX	P1001	Grey	47,780	$15,215
2010 Accord EX-L	P1005	Grey	33,910	$24,415
2010 CR-V EX 4WD	P1020	Black	47,631	$24,915

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Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. From Feb. 1, 2012 to Apr. 2, 2012, receive 0%/2.99% APR purchase financing on new 2012 Focus (excluding S), Fiesta (excluding S) models for a maximum of 60/72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment). Example: $20,000 purchase financed at 0%/2.99% APR for 60/72 months with a down payment of $2,850/$3,150 or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is $133/$98 [$133.29/$97.78] with total obligation is $20,000/$20,126 [$19,994.60/$20,125.92]. Cost of borrowing is $0/$1,379.28 with APR of 0%/2.99% and total to be repaid is $20,000/$21,379.28. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. Bi-Weekly payments are only available using a customer finded down payment. Offer not combinable with Bi-Weekly Matrix. Offer valid from February 1, 2012 to April 15, 2012 (the "Program Period") to retail customers who take delivery of a new 2012 Ford Fiesta, Focus, Escape, Explorer, Expedition, Mustang, Edge, Flex, Taurus, Transit Connect (excluding Electric)/Mustang Value Leader/F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/Edge (excluding SE)/Flex (excluding SE)/Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader)/Fusion (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Expedition/Mustang GT (excluding GT500 and Boss 302)/ Escape and Hybrid (excluding I4 Manual)/ Escape V6, F-250 to F-450 gas engine (excluding Chassis Cab)/ F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)/ F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew, F-250 to F-450 diesel engine (excluding Chassis Cab), All Raptor, GT500, BOSS302, and Medium Duty models excluded. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. 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Offer valid from February 1, 2012 to April 15, 2012 (the "Program Period") to retail customers who take delivery of a new 2012 Ford Fiesta, Focus, Escape, Explorer, Expedition, Mustang, Edge, Flex, Taurus, Transit Connect (excluding Electric)/Mustang Value Leader/F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/ Edge (excluding SE)/ Flex (excluding SE)/ Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader)/ Fusion (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Expedition/

Honda Fit loved for its five-door flexibility

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Taking a place as Honda's entry product, Fit is a five-door hatch with a small, efficient engine, a surprisingly flexible and spacious interior and good long-term value.

Expect good fuel economy, and features including a folding rear seat system that enabled easy loading of larger items like a flat-screen TV, bicycle or German shepherd.

2007-08 Honda Fit

Engine

All last-generation Fit models got a 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine with 109 horsepower and a five-speed gearbox in the driver's choice of manual or automatic. All units were front-wheel drive.

What owners like

Fit owners rave about mileage, versatility, handling, braking, manoeuvrability, visibility, ergonomics, and a surprising level of on-board roominess despite the machine's compact size.

What owners dislike

Complaints include a noisy engine and ride, abrupt ride characteristics in some situations, and diminished performance when the vehicle is loaded up.

Common issues

On a test-drive, be sure to inspect your potential used Fit candidate for signs of rust or peeling and damaged paint. Be sure the rear hatch stays open on its own — and that the strut that lifts and supports it isn't worn out.

Inspect the seats and carpeting for signs of accelerated wear, which some owners note as an issue. If the fabric or carpet material is worn through, ripped or faded, call it into pricing negotiations. Finally, the Fit should steer easily and smoothly at any speed as well as when stopped.

Verdict

Used car shoppers can expect the Fit to command a premium in the market, though above-average reliability, versatility and driving pleasure can be expected in return.

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Dodge.ca/Offers

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CANADA'S BIOX EXPLORES DIESEL'S FATTY FRONTIER

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▶ Tucked in Hamilton's industrial waterfront, the BIOX plant is one of the largest "continuous flow" biodiesel production facilities in the world.

Not many Canadians know about bio-diesel producer, BIOX, let alone that it uses stuff like chicken and pork fat to create eco-friendly fuel.

But stakeholders in the bio-fuel movement have always been hip to BIOX and its unique and patented process.

"The technology was developed at the University of Toronto, in the late 1990s, when it made absolutely no sense to turn vegetable oils and animal fats into diesel fuel," notes Kevin Norton, CEO and co-founder of BIOX. During those years, he notes that petroleum-based diesel was cheap and biodiesel feedstock was high. Net result: the research was somewhat "academic."

By 2000, realizing government and consumer appetitive for green fuel was going gangbusters, the founders of BIOX started to test the technology for commercial potential.

In 2001 BIOX acquired its worldwide rights. In 2007 its plant in Hamilton, Ont., was completed, and has been working virtually non-stop at full capacity ever since, pumping out biodiesel at a rate of about 60 million litres per year, establishing itself as one of the largest "continuous flow" biodiesel production facilities in the world.

The best way to understand the BIOX process is to first look at the "traditional" process. Traditional methods need a lot of energy and time to first deal with the Free Fatty Acid (FFA) content in some feedstock.

They need an additional layer to treat the FFA, or use feedstock with very little FFA, such as soya or canola. BIOX has no such trouble.

The other huge advantage of the BIOX process is that it is continuous. Feedstock goes in one end and biodiesel comes out the other. In contrast, the traditional process is a batch process.

Yet another advantage is its flexibility. Norton says BIOX can adapt "on the fly" to various raw materials, As such, BIOX is more able to use cheaper "non food grade" feedstocks — the high FFA content animal fats, crude palm oil, used cooking oil from restaurants, etc., that typically end up in cosmetic and/or animal feed markets.

BIOX also considers itself "supply agnostic." They are not committed to any particular raw material stream or industry.

"We know the raw material markets are going to change," says Norton.

"We actually source on a weekly basis, in about a 500-mile radius of the plant. We buy based on availability, price and logistics. It's a different combination every week."

Diesel transportation fuel in Canada must contain a two per cent renewable component. Certain provinces have their own, higher requirements.

But the U.S. is further along with both regulations and tax incentives, and that's where the big demand is for biodiesel, and where all of BIOX's fuel currently heads.

That demand helped, and continues to help, the U.S. biodiesel industry; it is clearly ahead of Canada's.

But don't blame BIOX. It's doing its part, and in a unique, technical way.

Over time, BIOX will also surely help me and others turn around their negative feelings about chicken fat.

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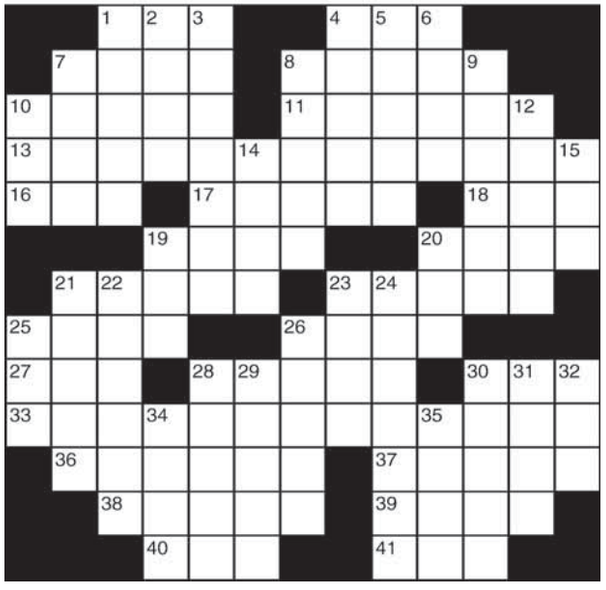

Across

1 Prof's degree
4 Pismire
7 Rock music's Motley —
8 Circus performer
10 Straighten
11 More frosted
13 Sunflower State's largest city
16 Powell co-star
17 Gerrymandered
18 Gratuity
19 Yank
20 Partner
21 Aroma
23 Gives as an example
25 "— have thought ...?"
26 Discourteous
27 Debtor's letters
28 Trap
30 Upper surface
33 Sooner State's second-largest city
36 Grow canines, e.g.
37 Occupied
38 Needle cases
39 Square
40 Suitable
41 Lair

Down

1 Expensive
2 Grant or Jackman
3 Dweller
4 Similar
5 Wanderer
6 Castor or Pollux
7 Advertising award
8 Grouch
9 Snuggle up
10 Piercing tool
12 Track components
14 Legal wrong
15 Agent
19 Clampett patriarch
20 Packed away
21 Yell
22 Grand — Dam
23 Ringlet
24 Came up with
25 Humor
26 Lawn care tools
28 Stopped slouching
29 Like a rare game
30 Fare, maybe
31 Portent
32 Skillet
34 Bristle
35 Own

▶ Yesterday's answer

V	A	M	P			E	W	E			B	R	A	M
E	M	I	R			L	O	T			E	U	R	O
R	I	C	O			B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	
B	R	A	N	D	O	N			O	K	R	A	S	
				T	O	W			P	R	O			
D	E	P	O	T			B	R	A	N	A	G	H	
A	R	E				D	A	Y				D	E	E
B	R	A	N	S	O	N			O	L	D	E	R	
				I	O	N			A	V	E			
T	O	W	E	L			B	R	A	N	I	F	F	
B	R	A	N	D	E	I	S			O	R	A	L	
S	E	C	T			A	D	O			R	I	D	E
P	O	K	E			T	E	N			E	S	S	E

Sudoku

8			5		9			2
	2		1		3		5	
		5				9		
		4	9		6	7		
1								8
		6	3		8	2		
		9				8		
	1		8		4		6	
3			2		7			4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	5	9	8	6	4	3	2	1
8	3	2	9	1	5	7	4	6
1	4	6	3	7	2	9	8	5
9	6	1	4	3	7	2	5	8
4	7	5	2	8	6	1	3	9
3	2	8	5	9	1	4	6	7
2	1	7	6	5	3	8	9	4
6	9	4	1	2	8	5	7	3
5	8	3	7	4	9	6	1	2

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Baby Lee, The past while has been amazing with you. I miss you every minute we're apart. Thank you for being who you are, and thank you for accepting me for who I am. I look forward to spending every day with you. I love you very much, never forget that! **LADY LOVER**

On the bus, It was amazing i have never felt that way before when we met on bus and kissed 4 years. i still remember the moment. Unfortunately we parted at Dec30 even though we miss and love each other it is not that easy to be there. **MEET TOGETHER**

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Today's horoscope

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♈ Aries March 21-April 20
This is a great time for you and the entry of Venus into your sign will make it 10 times better.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Pay a bit more attention to what other people are saying. If you don't you could lose out financially.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Whatever setbacks you may have endured of late, you can be confident that the worst is over.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Keep telling yourself that you are destined for greatness. It's not a long way from the truth as it happens, but you've got to believe it.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
If you need assistance with something today, you should find it easy enough to ask for it.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
You are under no illusions as to what your limits are but you also know that you have talents other people do not possess.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
This is one of the best times of the year for partnership matters, be they personal or professional.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Difficult decisions will come easy to you today but don't think you have to change everything.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 With Venus on your side over the next few weeks, you don't have to smash your way to success.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You'll go out of your way to be nice to family and friends, whether or not they have been nice to you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Keep things simple today. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to travel and social plans.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may be nice by nature but that does not mean you should let people off the hook when they've done wrong. SALLY BROMPTON

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CLEMENT ALLARD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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4. Don McLean - American Pie
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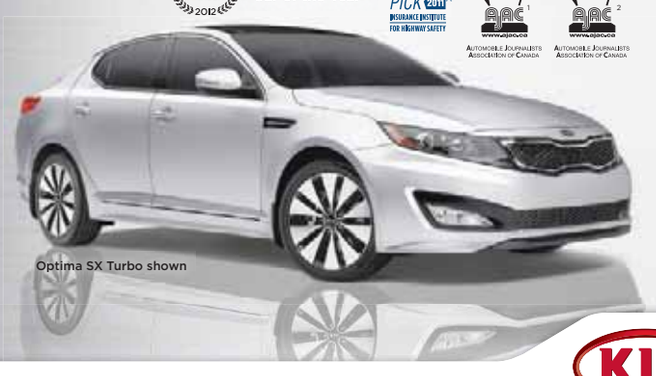

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0% FINANCING APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS**

Own it from $385 per month for 60 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,589. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $23,584.**

NOW GET UP TO $500 IN LOAN SAVINGS‡

PLUS

PAY UNTIL SPRING◆

ALSO AVAILABLE: OPTIMA HYBRID **$1,000 ECO-CREDIT^** PLUS UP TO **$1,250** Loyalty Bonus¥

Optima Hybrid Best New Family Car (over $30,000)[1] & Optima LX Best New Family Car (under $30,000)[2]

KIA

LIMITED TIME ONLY!
TORONTO FC vs LA GALAXY
GET A FREE PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE **MARCH 7TH MATCH** ON US WHEN YOU TEST DRIVE A 2012 KIA AT YOUR LOCAL GTA DEALER TODAY!*

TORONTO ALL FOR ONE

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WIN A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TRIP TO UEFA EURO 2012™

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KIA MEMBER REWARDS
Earn points towards future discounts. It's **FREE** and it's incredibly rewarding.

5 year warranty^

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED
*5-year/100,000 km worry-free comprehensive warranty

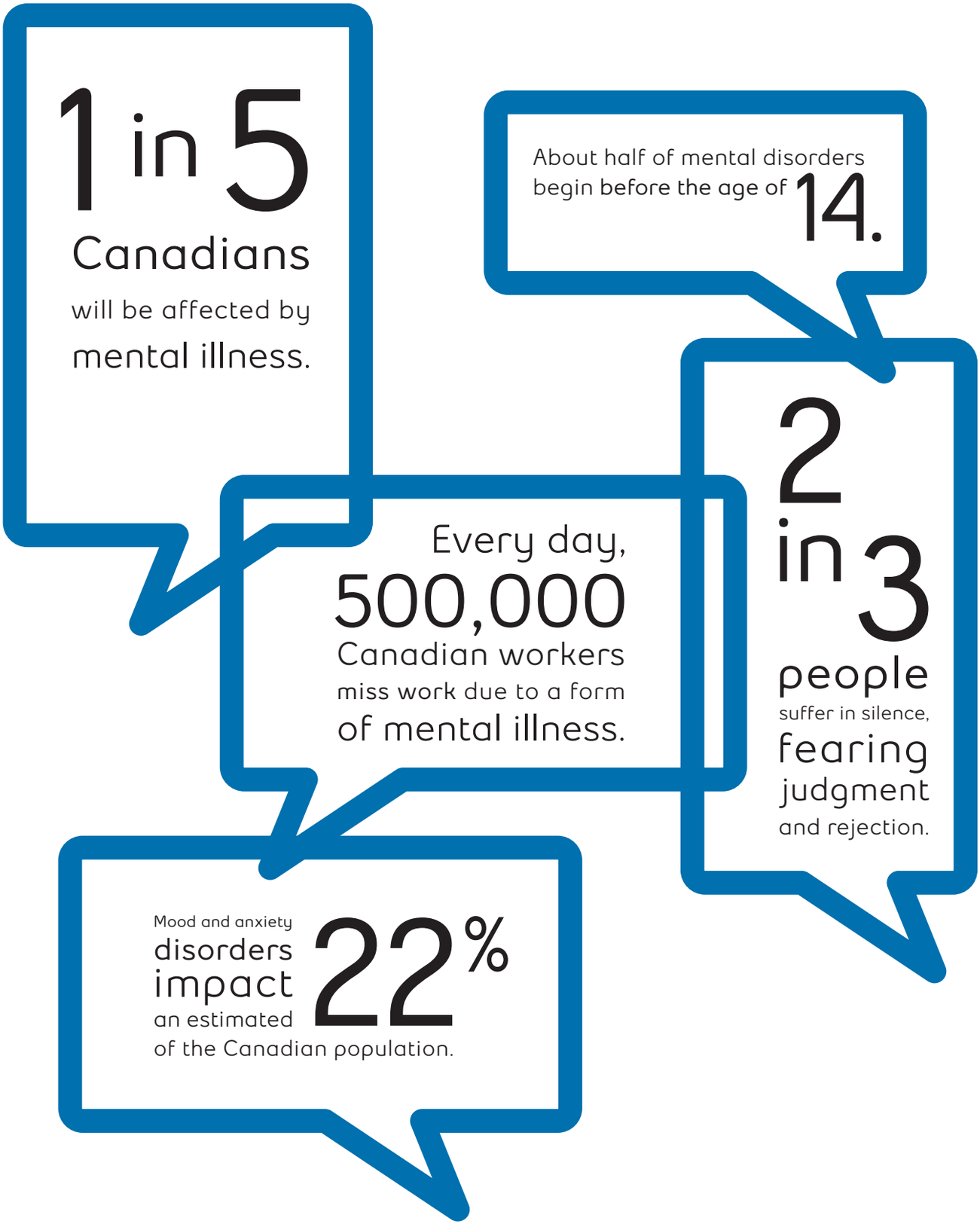
$500 Grad Rebate

Proud Partner madd Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

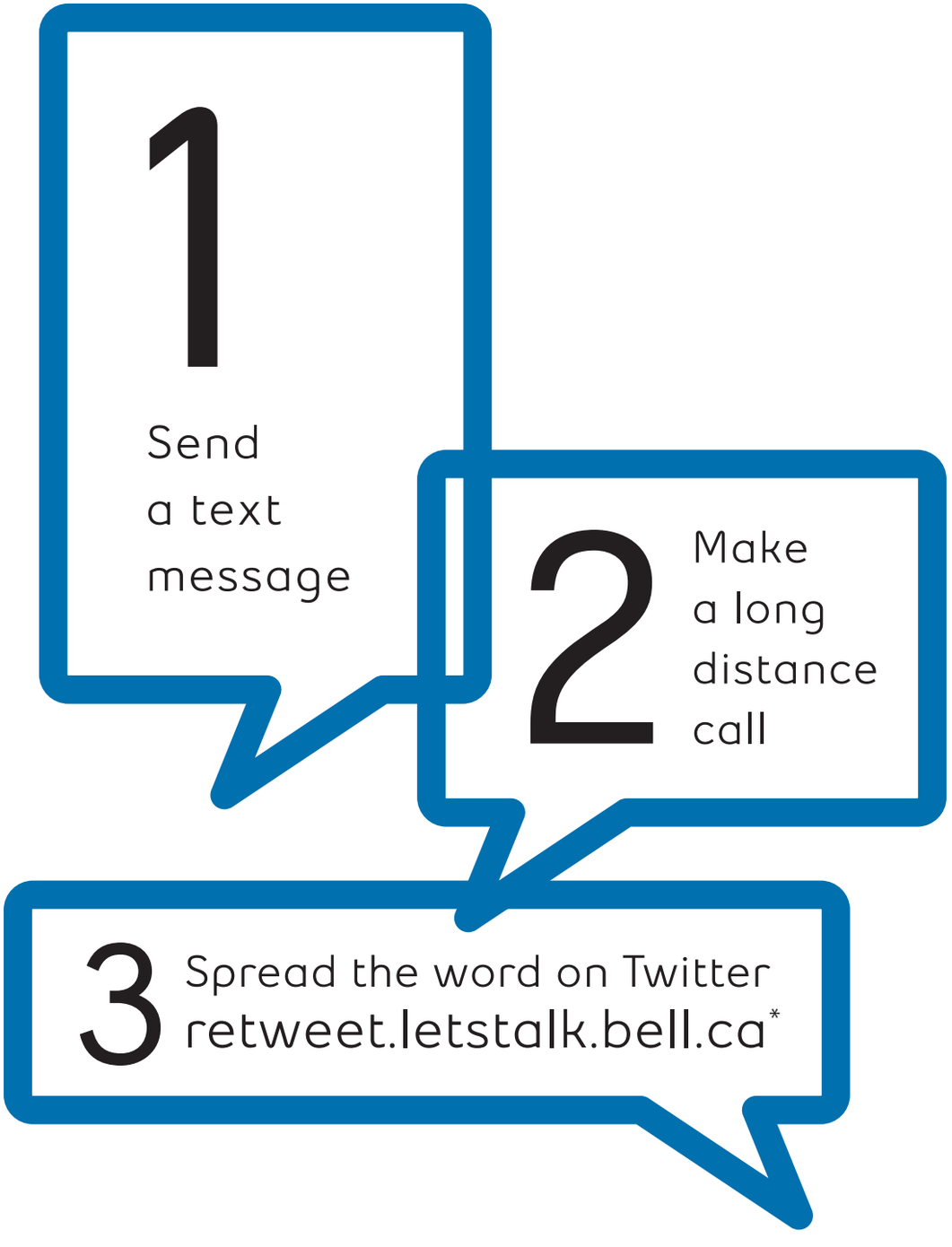
Visit kia.ca to learn more.

Offer(s) available on all new 2011/2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by February 29, 2012. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, applicable taxes, down payment and PPSA. Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. Certain restrictions may apply. **0% purchase financing is available on all 2011 and 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Items vary by model and trim; see dealer for details. Financing example based on 2011 Optima (OP541B)/2012 Kia Sorento (SR75K) with a selling price of $23,584/$28,379 financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $385/$444 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $23,584/$28,379. Delivery and destination fee(s) ($1,465/$1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699), and registration fees are extra. Optima/Sorento financing example includes a loan savings of $500/$1,750 (includes $1,000 loan savings and $750 loyalty bonus¥) and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings varies by model and trim. ◄Cash purchase price for 2012 Forte Sedan (FO540B) is $12,984 and includes a cash savings of $4,500 based on an MSRP of $17,484. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455, other fees of $34, OMVIC fee, and Environmental Fee are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699), and registration fees are extra. ◆"Don't Pay Until Spring" on select models (60-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings varies by model and trim. ¥Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2011 Optima Hybrid/2012 Kia Sorento at value of $1,250/$750 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011/2012 Kia Optima/Sorento. Loyalty Bonus offer applicable to cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only before February 29, 2012. Offer is transferrable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ^ECO-Credit for 2011 Optima Hybrid is $1,000 and is applicable to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Kia Optima Hybrid. Available at participating dealers. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ‡Loan savings for 2011 Optima (OP541B)/2012 Kia Sorento LX AT (SR75BC) is $500/$1,750 (includes $1,000 loan savings and $750 loyalty bonus¥) and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings varies by model and trim. ±Participate in Kia's test drive event and RECEIVE A PAIR OF TICKETS* to Toronto FC vs. L.A. Galaxy match on March 7, 2012 at the Rogers Centre. Suggested retail value of $62.00. Offer available at participating Kia dealers only. Offer valid from Feb 1 to Feb 29, 2012, or while quantities last. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limit one pair of tickets per person. Must hold a valid Canadian driver's license and be a resident of Ontario. *The EURO 2012 Contest closes on April 8, 2012. Complete contest details available at www.facebook.com/kiacanada. Grand Prize available consists of a pair of tickets to a semi-final game match in Warsaw, Poland. Prize includes executive class airfare for two (2) people, three night accommodations (double occupancy) at a 4-star hotel, and spending money. The approximate retail value of the Grand Prize is $14,250 (Estimated at time of preparing rules and regulations). No purchase necessary. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2836. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA and FlexChoice are trademarks of Kia Motors Corporation.



Bell Let's Talk

3 ways to show your support:



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You can also join us on Facebook by sharing your smile with your closest friends – Facebook.com/BellCanada

Bell Let's Talk

*Bell reserves the right to exclude any suspected automated/computer-generated or fraudulent retweets. Limit of one retweet per account, on February 8, 2012 between 8:00 AM NFLD Standard Time and 11:59PM Pacific Standard Time. One account per person.